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ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

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Mr. McRuer

ROBERT BRYDIE
OFFICIAL REPORTER
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Trois-Rivières, Qué.,
le 26 mars 1936.

Le séance s'ouvre à 10.00 a.m. sous la présidence de l'honorable Juge W.F.A Turgeon.

M. le COMMISSAIRE: Etes-vous prêt, monsieur Beauregard ?

Me BEAUREGARD: Monsieur Bastien, voulez-vous embarquer dans la boite ?

Q M. Bastien, sous le serment que vous avez prétez, est-ce que ca produit des désordres au cours de la grève?

R. Aucun, à ma connaissance.

Q. Vous a-t-on, à votre connaissance, ... je comprendrais que ce cela veut dire que devant vos il ne s'en est produit.

R. pas du tout

Q. On ne s'est pas plaint (pâlit) à vous ?

R. Aucune plainte.

Q. La grève a durer du 18 février au 2 mars?

R. Oui,elle a duré du 18 février au 2 mars au matin à 7 heures.

Q. Maintenant ,M Bastien,existait-il ce que l'on appelle le congrès du travail?

R.- Le Congrès des Métiers du Travail du Canada.

Q. Quéest- ce que c'est que cela?

R. C'est un corps législatif qui s'occupe des intérêts éconimiques, c'est une législation ouvrière pour les ouvriers du Canada.

Q. Une législation ouvrière qui s'occupe de quoi?

R. Elle s'occupe de la législation ouvrière.

Q Où a-t-elle son siège social ?
R A Ottawa.
Q Est-elle représentée d'une facon permanente ailleurs qu'à Ottawa ? R. Non, monsieur.
Q Vous êtes vous-même en relation avec le congrès?
R J'ai été nommé à la demande des officiers comme organisateur de la Fédération Américaine du Canada.
Q C'est à la suggestion de ce congrès que vous avez été choisi comme représentant en Canada ?
R En Canada.
Q De la société que vous représenté ici ?
R Oui, monsieur.
Q Continuez-vous d'être en relation avec ce congrès ?
R Continuellement, monsieur.
Q Quel est le chef du Congrès ?
R Monsieur P.M. Draper.
Q Il a son bureau à Ottawa ? R. A Ottawa.
Q Monsieur Bastien vous avez produit comme exhibit numéro 58 un projet d'accord entre les ouvriers-tisserand de Trois-Rivières et la Compagnie Wabasso. En réponse à une question de Me Lajoie, j'ai compris que ce projet d'entente était devenu une entente ?
M. le COMMISSAIRE: C'est l'été dernier ?
PAR Me BEAUREGARD:
Q C'est dans le mois d'aout, n'est-ce pas ?
R Oui, monsieur.
Q Les paragraphes 5,6,7,8,9 ont été consolidés dans un seul paragraphe qui porte maintenant le numéro 4?
R Oui, monsieur.
Q A l'occasion de la dernière grève, y a-t-il eu un accord de conclu entre les ouvriers et la compagnie,
[illegible]

je parle de la grève du mois de janvier?
R. Non, monsieur.

Q. Pas du tout? R. Non, Monsieur

Q. C'est-à-dire que les trois documents, la lettre du 4 février avec son annexe, pièce 47, la pièce 48 le bulletin de vote et la pièce 49 qui est jusqu'ici connue comme le projet de M. le maire Robichon, rien de cela n'a eu de suite ou a été confirmé par la compagnie ? R. Non, monsieur.

Q Y a-t-il en les ouvriers et la compagnie des pourparlers d'accord ? R. Non, monsieur.

Q D'aucune sorte ? R. D'aucune sorte, si l'on fait exception de la Commission qui siège actuellement sur cette question-là ?

Q Je vous ai entendu dire hier, à un moment donné, que la première revendication des ouvriers, c'était la reconnaissance de l'union; la deuxième, c'était le relevement du salaire ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Cependant, je vous ai endu dire ensuite que tout était capital, j'ai compris par là que les revendications mentionnées à la pièce 47, 48 et 49 étaient toutes capitales? R. Je crois que j'ai classifié ma déclaration.

Q Alors, je serais bien aise que vous soyez précis, pouvez-vous nous dire, le mot capital trahi peut-être notre pensée, quelles sont là ou les revendications auxquelles les ouvriers tiennent le plus et dont ils ont actuellement le plus besoin ? R. J'ai classifié ma déclaration hier, plus ou moins. Maintenant, je suis prêt à déclarer ceci: c'est que tout s'enchaine, la reconnaissance était absolument nécessaire, pour pouvoir

obtênir le relevement du salaire.

Q La revendication de l'union, c'est un moyen ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Et parmi que les avantages que les ouvriers reclameent, le premier serait le relèvement du salaire ? R. Oui.

Q. Le mois, ce serait la reconnaissance de l'Union ?

R. A mon point de vue.

Q. Comme objectif, le redressement dans les salaires?

R. Oui.

Q. En votre qualité, vous vous occupez d'une façon permanente et de la façon présente avec les ouvriers des Trois-Rivières, voulez-vous dire à la Commission ce que vous considerez, qu'elle est le maximum que vous considérez nécessaire, le maximum de revendication ?

R. Le maximum de revendication que je considérerais nécessaire dans les circonstances, c'est que des relations amicales devraient existées parce que je crois si cela existait, il y aurait des améliorations sensibles continuelles, de jour en jour.

Q. Est-ce un moyen de susciter des grèves ou bien de les éloigner ? R. Ce serait plutôt un moyen à mon point de vue de les éloigner.

Q. Si l'Union avait le droit de parler comme Union et si elle était écoutée, entendue par le patron, croyez-vous que ceci serait de nature à éviter des grèves. R. Absolument, c'est ma croyance.

Q. Est-ce que c'est votre expérience ?

R. Oui, c'est mon expérience.

Q. C'est votre témoin, M.Lajoie.

ME LAJOIE:

Je n'ai pas d'autre question.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Voici, qu'il plaise à la Cour, je comprends que M. Bastien n'est pas de Trois-Rivières, quelleque soit l'importance que l'on puisse apporter à ses vues ou à sa version, n'étant pas de Trois-Rivières, n'étant pas employé, n'étant pas permanent, ce n'est pas celui dont l'opinion compte le plus devant la Commission ou devant le patron. J'ai ici M.Gariépy, qui est avocat de l'Union. C'est probablement pas la peine de faire entendre comme témoin, ce ne serait pas régulier, mais comme avocat de l'Union, il pourrait faire une déclaration, déclaration qui pourrait être consignée dans les archives de la Commission et être traitée à sa valeur.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Si M.Gariépy peut me fournir les points de contestation entre les ouvriers de la Compagnie, alors, je serais fixé.

ME LAJOIE:

Je ne voudrais pas intervenir et être désagréable à mes confrères, mais hier, M. Gariépy, le représentant de l'Union était hier aviseur légal de l'Union, et jusqu'à hier après-midi, lors de la production du journal, il a produit sa comparution comme avocat au dossier. Il me semble qu'il n'est pas pratique dans les Cours qu'un avocat au dossier soit avocat d'une partie et témoin de l'autre.

M. le COMMISSAIRE;

Non, comme avocat, il peut formuler pour ainsi dire son plaidoyer, quel est le point de vue de son client.

ME LA JOIE:

Que Me Gariépy prépare une déclaration écrite et je crois que je n'aurai pas d'objection à ce qu'elle soit mise devant la Commission.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Mon savant ami soulève plutôt une question d'étiquette, mais je ne crois pas me tromper en disant que les Commission Royales publiques ont le droit d'entendre tous ceux qui déclarent avoir un intérêt à y être entendus.

M. le COMMISSAIRE.

En tout cas, ce n'est pas du témoignagne, j'aimerais à entendre M.Gariépy; la déclaration qu'il va faire, c'est tout simplement le point de vue de ses clients.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Alors, j'invite Me Gariépy ...

ME LAJOIE:

Ne croyez-vous pas que pour l'avantage de l'enquête cette déclaration pourrait être mise par écrit et déposer devant la Commission ?

M.le COMISSAIRE:

Il faut tout d'abord que j'entende M.Gariépy; il a le droit de parole et jusqu'ici il n'a rien fait.

M.GARIEPY:

Qu'il plaise à M.le Commissaire, les trois principaux points que mes clients m'ont demandé d'exposer devant

cette Commission sont: le premier, la liberté d'organisation ouvrière dans l'usine qui malgré que ce soit un droit d'administration, jusqu'ici ce droit n'a pas été reconnu.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Ca c'est une question de témoignage.

Me GARIEPY:

C'est, notre proposition. Par le deuxième point, nous demandons le relèvement des salaires; par le troisième, la réinstallation des employés qui ont été démis par suite de leur activité, par suite de l'organisation ouvrière.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Au mois d'août 1935.

Me GARIEPY:

Exactement. La dernière grève a été la cause des grèves précédentes.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Alors, voilà que vous avez trois chefs de demande, n'est-ce pas ?

Me LAJOIE:

M. Gariépy me répèteriez-vous vos trois points ?

Me GARIEPY:

La réinstallation des employés démis par suite de leur activité dans leur organisation ouvrière.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Alors, Il ne s'agit pas du mois d'août dernier.

Me GARIEPY:

Oui, ça remontrait au mois d'août à venir jusqu'à ce jour. Nous avons ici, une liste des employés qui ont été mis dehors. Nous n'avons pas été en mesure de pouvoir tous les contrôler; nous avons ici une liste de gens qui travaillaient au moulin au mois d'août 1935, et dans cette période, d'une façon/ou d'une autre, il y en a qui ont été démis et notre prétention c'est qu'ils ont été démis par suite de l'organisation ouvrière.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Et vous demandez la réinstallation si cela n'a pas déjà été fait.

Me GARIEPY:

Oui.

Me le COMMISSAIRE:

Dans certains cas, cela a été fait.

Me GARIEPY:

Oui.

PAR LA COUR:

L'on nous a dit que la Compagnie refusait de reconnaître l'Association; Est-ce que l'on admet cela où s'il faut entendre les témoignages ? M. Lajoie, admettez-vous que la Compagnie refuse de reconnaître l'Association Ouvrière?

Me LAJOIE:

La Compagnie reconnaît l'Association Ouvrière. Voici ma déclaration: La Compagnie veut traiter avec ses employés; elle prétend que le moyen de traiter avec ses employés, c'est par le medium

du Comité Industriel.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Le Comité Industriel est composé de quarante-cinq membres.

Me LAJOIE:

Le Comité est composé de quarante-cinq membres. Elle ne veut pas traiter avec l'Union Internationale, comme Union, elle veut traiter avec ses membres comme ses employés, dans le moulin. Voilà pourquoi jusqu'à présent on a eu des difficultés; la Compagnie a toujours été poussé de l'autre côté de la clôture, comme l'on dirait. Tous nos ouvriers ont le droit de faire partie de l'Union, la loi leur donne le droit, mais l'on dit ici: dans notre moulin comme il y a beaucoup d'employés, nous discuterons avec un Comité composé d'employés. L'union veut que l'on traite avec elle comme un corps séparé et que l'on reconnaisse l'Union Nationale comme ayant les qualités, les parités de droit et nous disons: cela, nous ne pouvons pas le reconnaître et en agissant ainsi, nous agissons suivant la loi; Voilà pour le premier point.

Pour les salaires, la Compagnie prétend que sa structure financière ne lui permet pas d'accorder une augmentation de salaire, la preuve, - nous ferons la preuve tout à l'heure - c'est que depuis six ou sept ans, elle n'a pas payé de dividendes à ceux qui ont mis de l'argent dans cette Compagnie pour la faire marcher. La Compagnie employe plus de deux milles personnes et il sera en preuve que parmi ceux-

là, il y a plusieurs membres de la même famille qui travaillent à l'usine et que les salaires ne sont pas aussi élevés que ceux que la Compagnie voudrait payer mais que l'on constate que dans une même famille, il se retire trois ou quatre salaires. Vous avez dans un moulin de papier, un emploi que pour des hommes; on a besoin d'hommes de métier, d'hommes d'expérience et de manipulateurs de choses pesantes; mais dans cette manufacture, à part des mécaniciens, c'est une manufacture pù l'ouvrage est plutôt pour les dames où l'on a besoin de doights plus habiles et de corps plus forts. C'est dans la manufacture de coton, qu'une femme, une jeune fille, soit plus habile qu'un homme. Voilà pourquoi que dans une manufacture de coton, l'ouvrage est pour des femmes et filles; soit des draps à brins tirés, soit dans la marchandise délicate Voilà pourquoi le nombre de femmes est requis en plus grand nombre. L'on voudrait y susbtituer des hommes, c'est la proposition qui existe. C'est l'usage de l'industrie du coton, d'être une industrie plus féminine que masculine.

Et maintenant, M.Lajoie, pour la réinstallation des ouvriers.

Nous allons prétendre, M.le Commissaire, que nous avons tenu notre promesse que tous les ouvriers du mois d'aout, pères de famille et soutiens de famille ont été réengagés, et ceux qui n'ont pas été réengagés se sont ceux qui ont quitté la place ou bien ceux qui ont trouvé de l'ouvrage ailleurs. A ce sujet, il y

a eu des négociations, il y a eu un échagge de listes entre la compagnie et les employés et il y a à peine, je dirai, que six ou sept employés qui n'ont pas été repris, et ceux-là, ce sont des absents alors ils ne pouvaient pas être repris. C'est notre prétention et je crois que lorsque la preuve en sera faite, on l'admettra. M.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Maintenant que je suis fixé, voulez-vous continuer M. Beauregard.?

Me LAJOIE:

Et j'ajouterai que pour ceux qui n'ont pas été repris, il y a eu une entente, on a reconnu que pour ceux-là, on ne pourrait rien faire.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Nous allons alors procéder, j'avais décidé de faire entendre le Maire des Trois-Rivières, seulement, je n'ai pu communiquer avec lui; j'aurais aimé le faire entendre au sujet de la grève des Trois-Rivières.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Vous pourriez peut-être procéder à d'autres choses ?

Me BEAUREGARD:

Je désirerais faire entendre M. Edgar Michelin.

(Page 665, suit)

EDGAR MICHELIN, est assermenté.

Examiné par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q. Monsieur Michelin, quelle est votre âge? R. Quarante ans.

Q. Etes-vous marié? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous des enfants? R. J'en ai quatre.

Q. Combien payez-vous de loyer, Monsieur Michelin. R. Je suis propriétaire.

Q. Vous demeurez chez vous? R. Oui.

Q. Vous travaillez au moulin Wabasso? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Depuis combien d'années? R. Depuis onze ans, depuis 1925.

Q. Dans quel départ-ment êtes-vous employé? R. Dans le picker room, département du carder room.

Q. C'est une des divisions du carder Room? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est là que le coton est échiffé, trié? R. Pas directement, c'est-à-dire, mis en latte, c'est-à-dire que le coton entre dans des machines.

Q. Alors qu'il est à l'état de laine, il sort comme des rouleaux de ouate. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Quel est votre travail, c'est la machine qui travaille, elle échiffe le coton; qu'est que vous faites. R. Je suis supposé avoir soin de ces machines là, quatre machines a avoir soin.

Q. C'est un rouleau? R. Un rouleau.

Q. Gros comme un rouleau de fil? R. Oui, gros, un peu.

Q. Quelle est la hauteur de ce rouleau? R. Ca doit avoir quatre pieds.

Q. Est-ce en bois, en papier ou en fer? R. Non, en coton.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a un essieu là dessus? R. Une "rod", une baguette de fer.

Q. Combien y a-t-il de rouleaux sur la baguette de fer? R. Ca dépend, en arrière

Q. Il n'a pas de femmes qui travaillent dans ce département là? R. Je voudrais bien qu'il y en aurait pour voir si elle pouvaient faire l'ouvrage.

Q. C'est ne pas un travail de fantaisie? R. Non.

Q. Vous avez quatre machines à surveiller? R. Quatre machines à surveiller.

Q. Vous travaillez de quelle heure à quelle heure?

R. De trois à onze heures.

Q. Onze heures de l'avant midi ou onze heures du soir?

R. Oui, du soir.

Q. Ca fait huit heures? R. Pardon, on a une heure.

Q. Vous avez une heure pour souper? R. Oui.

Q. Alors, vous soupez chez-vous? R. Non, je soupe là.

Q. Vous soupez à l'usine? R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce que vos machines continuent à fonctionner pendant l'heure du souper? R. Non.

Q. Les machines arrêtent? R. Les machines arrêtent.

Q. Pour une heure? R. Pour une heure, ou bien, quand on fait faire de l'extra.

Q. Dans ce temps-l'a, vous dites que les machines fonctionnent et vous-même, fonctionnez pendant l'heure? R. Oui, je ne manque pas de fonctionner.

Q. Est-ce que votre salaire est le même pendant le temps supplémentaire? R. Absolument.

Q. Combien gagnez-vous? R. 30 cents de l'heure.

Q. Vous ne perdez pas de temps, vous travaillez tous les jours?

R. Excepté par la maladie, a part de celà, je ne perds pas de temps.

Q. Combien êtes-vous d'employés de votre catégorie de pickers

R. Sur mes machines, je suis seul, c'est-à-dire, que j'ai de l'aide, un homme qui m'apporte les lattes. Il y a deux machines,

je charge les rouleaux sur les deux machines, je fais le doughage.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a des bouts de temps dans la journée où vous ne travaillez pas, ou vous n'avez rien à faire? R. Je n'en vois pas, je n'ai pas le temps de m'amuser.

Q. Combien de temps faites-vous ce travail là? R. Je ne peux pas vous dire au juste.

Q. Combien d'années? R. Çà fait peut être 7 à 8 ans, peut être plus, je ne me rappelle pas.

Q. Avez-vous toujours eu quatre machines à surveiller?

R. J'en ai plus que ça.

Q. Vous en avez déjà eu plus? R. Oui

Q. Combien de plus.? R. Six.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a longtemps de celà? R. Voilà une bonne escousse, apeu près deux ans.

Q. Vous aviez six machines dans ce temps là? R. C'est à dire j'avais deux machines en arrière et j'avais quatre machines en avant.

Q. Quelle était votre salaire dans ce temps là? R. Je ne peux pas me rappeler, 32 cents de l'heure.

Q. Et maintenant, vous avez 30 cents? R. On a 30 cents.

Q. Quelle a été le montant de votre dernière paye? R.$26.00

Q. $26.00 pour deux semaines, c'était une quinzaine?

R. J'avais fait de l'extra.

Q. Vous aviez fait combien d'extra? R. Cinq ou six heures je crois.

Q. Alors, votre quinzaine, ça voulait dire douze jours.

R. A sept heures.

Q. A sept heures? R. Par jour

Q. Vous aviez fait un suplément de travail? R. cinq ou six heures.

Q.- Comment aviez-vous fait ce supplément de travail, parce que vous aviez travaillé pendant l'heure du repas? R. Pendant l'heure du repas.

Q. Vous n'étiez- pas sorti pour aller manger,? R. Non.

Q. Vous n'arrêtiez pas de travailler pour aller manger? R.Non.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a des chaises, des bancs, pour s'assoir? R. On a pas le temps de s'assoir.

Q. Vous mangez...... R. On mange debout, quand on peut.

Q. Sans perdre de temps? R. Sans perdre de temps, on n'a pas le temps de s'amuser, surtout, quand on fait de l'extra.

CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. Vous rappelez-vous en quelle année vous êtes entré à la compagnie Wabasso Monsieur Michelin? R. C'est dans les premiers temps de tout, au commencement.

Q. Avant d'entrer à la Compagnie Wabasso, où avez vous travaillé?
R. A la Gabelle, au barrage qui s'est fait là.

Q. Quand vous avez fini de travailler à la construction du barrage? R. Je suis entré à la compagnie depuis le 15 fév. 1925, depuis ce temps-là que je suis pour eux autres.

Q. Depuis le 15 février, 1925, vous avez toujours travaillé régulièrement pour la compagnie? Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous n'avez pas manqué d'ouvrage, vous avez toujours été à l'ouvrage? R. J'ai pas toujours été à l'ouvrage, des semaine, on travaille pas. On travaille six semaines; au bout de la sixième, on loaf.

Q. Pour combien de temps? R. Une semaine, on travaille une autre semaine.

Q. Comment s'est arrivé de fois? R. Je ne peux pas vous dire au juste, je ne peux pas me rappeler les dates.

Q. A peu près, depuis dix ans, combien avez vous perdu de temps?
R. Vous sauriez celà de la part de nos officiers.

Q. Au meilleur de votre connaissance, même si vous vous trompez un peu? R. Je ne peux pas vous dire.

Q. Vous trouvez-vous chanceux d'avoir fait de l'ouvrage pendant dix ans sans interruption? R. Pas sans interruption, parce

Q Il y a dans le département des jeunes filles qui font le même ouvrage que vous? R Oui.

Q Sur le quart des jeunes filles? R Oui.

Q Les "hanks" ou compteurs, enrégistrent l'ouvrage que vous faites? R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous pouvez constater quel ouvrage vous faites? R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous êtes au courant de ce que vous faites? R Oui monsieur.

Q Est-ce qu'il est arrivé que la paye ne concordait pas àvec votre pointage? R Oui, quelquefois.

Q Vous êtes-vous plaint pour avoir un réajustement? R Oui, et on a eu notre réajustement.

Q De ce coté vous avez rien à dire? R Non monsieur.

Q Maintenant,quand vous avez parlé des salaires de 12 cts et 13 cts, il y a plusieurs années? R L'année passée.

Q Cette année, suivant les lois qui régissent le travail que vous faites présentement, combien avez vous? R 17 cts le hank.

Q Combien est-ce que ça donne de l'heure à peu près?- R Ca donne de l'heure, le temps qu'on perd, sur huit heures on peut faire 7, on perd 17 cts par huit heures par machine.

Q N'est-il pas vrai que ça vous donne à peu près au moins 31 cts de l'heure? R Je crois que ça ne donne pas tout à fait ça, je n'en suis pas certain, je l'ai pas compté.

Q Vous avez droit à une heure pour diner le midi? R On a droit à une heure.

Q Si vous vouliez sortir le midi et prendre votre heure du diner, pour partiriez? R Oui monsieur.

R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous restez pour gagner une demie heure d'ouvrage?

R Oui monsieur.

Q C'est volontairement, délibérement que vous faites ça? R Oui.

Q C'est pour gagner plus? R Justement.

Par Me.BEAUREGARD:

Q Avez-vous des enveloppes de payes, vous les avez gardées?

R Une enveloppe de paye, c'est à dire j'ai des enveloppes, dans le temps elles étaient pas imprimées, c'est au crayon, mais j'ai tout mon temps.

Q Comment se fait-il qu'elles ne sont pas imprimées?

R C'est imprimé depuis que le comité industriel est en formation.

Par Me LAJOIE:

Q Vous faites partie de l'Union depuis quand?

R Depuis son début.

Q C'est à dire depuis août? R Oui monsieur.

Q Et vous êtes, tout en faisant partie de l'Union, sur le conseil ou le comité industriel du moulin?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Parce que vous faisiez partie de l'Union on vous a pas enlevé du conseil ou du comité industriel?

R Non.

Q Vous y êtes demeuré?

R.- Oui.

Q Vous connaissez ce conseil industriel du moulin?

R Oui monsieur.

Q De 45 membres? R Oui monsieur.

Q Combien sur ce conseil ou plutot ce comité industriel, font partie de l'union Internationale à peu près? R 45 à 50.

Q Vous ne me comprenez pas. Le comité industriel se compose de 45 membres, je désire savoir de vous, au meilleur de votre connaissance, sur ces 45 membres, combien de personnes que vous connaissez, font partie de 1Union Internationale? R Je ne peux pas dire le nombre exact.

Q Au meilleur de votre connaissance, - Monsieur Fortin nous a dit: environ la moitié, est-ce que vous trouvez que c'est à peu près exact?

R Il peut avoir la moitié.

Q Aucun des membres du comité industriel du moulin, qui font partie de l'Union Internationale, n'a été depuis le mois d'août, changé et retiré du comité industriel du moulin, ils sont tous restés?

R Ils sont tous restés.

Q Ce comité industriel se réunit? R Oui.

Q Vous avez parlé d'un incident au sujet de banc à l'heure du diner? R Oui.

Q C'est au comité industriel que ça s'est discuté?

R Oui.

Q M. Carle, c'est l'inspecteur de la Loi Provinciale? R Je le pense.

Q Est-ce que le comité industriel discute de questions aussi? R Oui, j'ai moi même demandé différentes choses.

Q Depuis la rentrée des employés à l'usine, après la difficulté qui ont duré, du 18 février au 2 mars, est-ce que le conseil industriel a continué à se réunir? R On a eu une assemblée.

Q Les membres de l'Union qui en faisaient partie y sont allés? R Oui,monsieur.

Q

Q Il s'est discuté des questions d'intérêt général par les employés, a cette assemblée?

R Oui.

Q Tout a marché dans la concorde et dans l'union des employés? R C'est à dire que la concorde, c'est assez difficile d'exposer des affaires au comité industriel, nous avons pas de constitution, on va là faire un tour ni plus ni moins.

Q Est-ce que chacun peut dire quelque chose, vous pouvez prendre la parole au comité?

R Oui, je l'ai prises a maintes reprises.

Q On vous a pas fait taire, tous ont le droit de parler? R Non, on m'a pas fait taire mais on m'a intimidé, M. Whitehead m'a dit que j'avais eu besoin de services, qu'il m'avait rendu service déjà.

Q Il vous a dit ça? R Oui.

Q Qu'est-ce que vous aviez dit avant ça pour qu'il vous dise ça? R Absolument rien.

Q C'est venu comme ça? R On discutait, on parlait peut être de l'Union.

Q Vous discutiez ensemble le comité industriel, quelle question discutiez vous? R Les affaires en général.

Q Avez-vous pris des décisions au comité industriel, ...cette assemblée là est-ce après la grève?

R C'est pas l'assemblée d'après la grève.

Q C'est avant la grève? R Du temps du comité industriel.

Q Le comité industriel a eu une assemblée après la grève? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Ils ont discuté des questions? R Oui.

Q Il y a pas eu de chicane? R Non.

Q Vous, vous étiez même très activement de la dernière grève? R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous aviez un role, une position dans le comité exécutif de l'Union Internationale? R Oui.

Q Vous étiez un des sept membres de l'exécutif?
R Oui.

Q Vous avez eu votre position après la grève? R Oui.

Q Vous avez travaillé pareil après la grève?
R Oui, mais est-ce que je l'aurai après l'enquête par exemple.

Me. BEAUREGARD: On espère que les témoins ne perdront pas leurs positions.

Me. LAJOIE: Notre attitude a été assez généreuse pendant la grève, et après on a tous repris ces gens là, après avoir tout enduré.

Par Me BEAUREGARD :

Q Monsieur Matton, quand le comité industriel a-t-il été formé d'après vous? R Je crois au mois d'août, quand ils ont changé les équipes de femmes, quand ils ont remplacé les hommes par les femmes.

Q En 1935? R Oui.

Q L'Union était formée dans ce temps là? R Oui.

Q C'est à dire que l'Union a été formée avant le comité, ou le comité a-t-il été formé avant l'Union. Je voudrais savoir si le comité industriel a été formé avant l'Union ou si l'Union a été formée avant le Comité? R L'union a été formée avant le comité industriel.

Q Je vous entendais dire: "du temps du comité industriel" est-ce qu'il n'existe plus? R Oui, j'ai assisté à la dernière assemblée.

Q Vous avez dit de plus, en rapportant un incident

dans une assemblée? R Oui il nous a parlé de l'Union.

Q En quels termes?

R En termes....pour un trois quarts d'heure, il nous a dit qu'on aurait absolument rien avec l'Union, qu'on gagnerait rien.

Q Qui a dit ça? R M. Whitehead à l'assemblée du comité industriel.

Q A quelle date? R Je ne sais pas.

Q Vous dites que ça duré trois quarts d'heure? R Oui.

Par le COMMISSAIRE:

Q Quand est-ce ça?

R C'est entre le mois d'août, soit dans le mois d'août, dans le cours de l'automne toujours.

Par Me.BEAUREGARD:

Q Après la grève d'août? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Ca avait lieu où? R Au Work office.

Q Dans l'usine? R Dans le moulin.

Q Vous dites que Monsieur Whitehead a parlé trois quarts d'heure, est-ce à dire qu'il était le seul à parler? R Je vais vous dire l'assemblée commence....

Q Comment est-ce que ça se passe? R Il demande avant si on a quelque chose à dire, dans la card room, le screen room, dans les différentes départements, si on a quelque chose à dire, il dit: si personne a rien à dire, c'est lui qui prend la parole.

Q Après cette question, qu'il y ait une réponse ou non il prend la parole M.Whitehead?

R Oui,quand la discussion est fini il prend la parole.

Q Et là il parle? R Oui monsieur.

Q Longtemps? R Suivant le cas.

Q Cette fois là il a fait un discours de trois quarts d'heure? R Oui l'assemblée s'est prolongée 15 minutes plus tard qu'elle était supposée durer, si je me rappelle bien.

Q De l'Union? R C'est à dire qu'ils accepteraient rien de l'Union, que le gouvernement était là pour les lois et que lui les observait, et qu'on avait pas besoin d'union.

Q Et qu'il accepterait rien de l'Union? R Oui.

Q Il vous a pas dit quelle sorte d'union, il a pas fait référence à aucune union en particulier?
R Je ne crois pas.

Q Ca duré trois quarts d'heures cette allocution?
R A peu près.

Q Toujours sur le même sujet? R Toujours au but de l'Union avec la Wabasso.

Q C'est à dire quant aux traitement ou aux résultats que l'union aurait? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous avez dit que vous aviez un calepin? R Oui.

Q L'avez-vous votre calepin? R Oui, avec tous mes hanks dedans, les premières pages sont pas trop compréhensibles, les autres sont claires, c'est à dire dans les premières pages c'est toutes des feuilles des trois frames.

Me. BEAUREGARD: Si la Cour me donnait quelques minutes, l'atmosphère est bien chargée.

Par le COMMISSAIRE: La cour est ajournée pour dix minutes, à midi moins vingt-cinq.

Et le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

(ARTHEME CARLE)

Lequel témoin est assermenté.

Interrogé par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q Monsieur Carle quelle est votre occupation?

R Inspecteur pour le Ministère du travail, provincial.

Q Depuis combien d'années? R Depuis le 1er février 1934.

Q Inspecteur de quoi? R De toutes les législations ouvrières provinciales, du ministère du travail.

Q C'est à dire que vous êtes chargé de faire approuver ou plutot de faire observer toutes les lois provinciales du travail ddans le district qui vous est assigné? R Oui.

Q Quel est-il? R Le comté de Champlain, de St.Maurice, Maskinongé.

Q Trois Rivières aussi? Oui, Trois Rivières est dans St.Maurice, et en plus la ville de Nicolet.

Q Vous avez trois comtés? R Oui, monsieur.

Q La Wabasso c'est entièrement sous votre juridiction? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Quand vous référez aux lois provinciales du travail, vous voulez dire sans doute, les lois que nous trouvons codifiées dans un superbe volume que je tiens dans la main: "Code des Lois Ouvrières et Industrielles de la Province de Québec, 1935?

R Oui, justement.

Q Au point de vue dans l'affaire Wabasso, au point de vue conditions de l'ouvrier, avez-vous déjà discuté, vous êtes vous assuré si la compagnie Wabasso observait les clauses touchant le salaire minimum,

page 248. Vous ètes sans doute familier avec l'ordonnance: page 248, Ordonnance No.5 révisé" couvrant les jeunes filles et femmes ou hommes, lorsque ceux-ci remplacent celles là dans l'industrie textile comprenant le tissage,le tricotage,le filage,"il est dit que 10% des ouvrières, au moins 12½ de l'heure; 25 % des ouvrières au moins 17 cts de l'heure et 65% des ouvrières au moins 21 cts de l'heure?

Par le Commissaire: Qu'est-ce que vous lisez là?

Me.Beauregard: page 248.

Par Mtre Beauregard:

Q Cette ordonnance est en vigueur depuis août 1935? R Oui.

Q Avez-vous des rapports de la compagnie quant au percentage d'ouvrières qui on touché un minimum de 12 cts, et quel est le percentage de celles qui touchent 17 cts, et un percentage des ouvrières touchant 21 cts?

R Au mois de décembre ou janvier il y a eu un questionnaire de prix à la Wabasso, ces rapports sont envoyés à Montréal à la Commission, à M.Gustave Francq. J'ai fait la vérification, et lorsque l'échelle n'est point observée on m'averti de nouveau de voir à faire corriger les manquements quand il y en a.

Q Je comprends que cette partie sur laquelle je vous amène, ne relève pas de votre juridiction?

R Je fait enquête, je prends les questionnaires, je les envois à Montréal pour vérification.

Q Vous recevez de Montréal un questionnaire?

R J'ai des formules spéciales.

Q Que vous soumettez à la compagnie? Oui, vous avez une copie de la liste de paye.

Q Et si Montréal a quelque chose à dire, ils vous le disent? R Oui.

Q Comment pouvez-vous savoir vous, comment Montréal a des corrections à faire, par exemple si la compagnie remettait une liste de pas plus de 10% d'employés qui touchent 12½, où est le controle?

R On a la liste de nom.

Q La compagnie vous fourni la liste? R Oui.

Q A vous? R Oui.

Q Vous êtes en possession de la liste des employés?

R Parfaitement.

Q La liste que vous avez date de quand?

R Il faudrait que je prendrais la copie au bureau, je crois que c'est janvier ou février.

Q 1936? R Oui.

Q Dans cette liste là vous avez les noms de tous les employés? R Oui, qui travaillent à la Wabasso.

Q Avez-vous leur âge? R Non il y a pas d'age dessus.

Q Vous avez leurs noms mais pas d'âge?

R Le nom, le total d'heures et le total d'argent retiré dans la quinzaine.

Q Est-ce un rapport qui vaut pour une quinzaine, pour une année ou six mois? R Une quinzaine.

Q Vous l'avez ce rapport là parce que vous l'avez demandé? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Voudrez-vous l'apporter cette après midi?

R Oui.

Q Vous afez qu'un rapport comme ça? R Sur la nouvelle loi, oui.

Q Avez-vous vous même controlé si le rapport etait exact? R Non.

Q Vous avez reçu ce rapport et vous l'avez mis dans votre tiroir? R J'en fait une copie que je garde.

Q Est-ce que Montréal vous a reparlé de ce- rapport là? R Du tout.

Q D'après ce que vous connaissez, comment Montréal peut il savoir si le rapport si le rapport de la compagnie est vrai ou faux? R Le rapport de la compagnie est certifiée par un employé de la compagnie comme quoi il est vrai, quand j'ai des doutes moi même je fais une enquête à domicile, je vais trouver les employés.

Q Sur le rapport dont vous parlez, que vous apporterez avec vous cet après midi, vous avez pas eu de doute? R Non, parce que j'ai pas eu de plaintes d'aucune femme ou fille.

Q Je comprends que d'après l'ordonnance, certaines jeunes filles peuvent ne recevoir que 12½ cts de l'heure? R 10% des employés, il y en a 600.

Q Comment vaulez-vous que les employées sachent si elles sont plus que 60 sur 600 à recevoir 12½ cts il faudrait qu'elles feraient l'inventaire?

R Elles n'auraient qu'à s'adresser à la Commission, ce rapport va à la Commission, et elle les renseignerait.

Q Vous voulez dire que les plaintes peuvent venir, si les employées s'enquièrent à la Commission?

R Si elles ont du doute.

Q Seulement les employées elles, une par une,

ne sont pas chargées de l'observance de la Loi?

R C'est entendu.

Q Ca l'intéresse pas, son salaire l'intéresse seulement? R. Oui.

Q Si elles faisaient ce que vous dites, c'est qu'elles prendraient l'intérêt général? R Certainement.

Q Comment voulez-vous qu'une jeune fille, qui reçoit 12½ cts de l'heure puisse se plaindre elle même qu'elle reçoit 12½ cts de l'heure, on peut lui dire: vous êtes dans le 10%? R Oui.

Q Comment peut elle savoir que celles qui ne reçoivent pas 12 ½ composent plus que 10% de la totalité?

R Elles n'auraient qu'à s'informer au bureau elles le sauraient, à la Commission.

Q D'après vous la Commission le sait par le rapport que vous avez de la Wabasso? R Oui.

Q Vous avez pas exercez une surveillance vous même pour savoir si le rapport était exact ou non? R Non.

Q Avez-vous déjà reçu des plaintes d'employés qui n'avaient pas leurs salaires? R Non.

Par le COMMISSAIRE. Il nous a dit qu'il avait fait des enquêtes à domiciles?

R Je n'ai pas eu une plainte.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q En avez-vous déjà fait concernant la Wabasso, des enquêtes? R Non, pas pour la Wabasso, parce que j'ai pas eu de plaintes.

Q Vous faites des enquêtes quand vous avez des plaintes des employées? R Oui.

Q Pour le moment, je vous parle de la Wabasso?

R Certainement.

Q Vous n'avez jamais fait d'enquête parce que vous n'avez jamais fait d'enquêtes parce que vous n'avez

pas eu de plaintes d'employés, à l'effet qu'un ou plusieurs employés recevaient moins que le salaire minimum? R Pour les femmes.

Q Quand vous avez reçu ce rapport vous n'avez pas cherché à savoir s'il était correct ou non?

R Les rapports je les envois à Montréal, il y a un vérificateur, pour savoir si l'ordonnance est observée.

Q Pour savoir si le 10% est observée? R Oui.

Q Je vois qu'à la suite de cette disposition quant au percentage, il y a une autre disposition: " le salaire de l'ouvrière doit lui être paye en deniers ayant cours légal dans cette province; aucune retenue n'en peut être faite pour quelque cause que ce soit. Ce salaire devra lui être remis dans une enveloppe scellée sur laquelle sera inscrit: son nom, son numéro matricule, la date de la semaine ou de la quinzaine de travail, le nombre d'heures accomplies, le taux du salaire à l'heure, le montant d'argent dans l'enveloppe; et celle ci devra être initialée par la personne qui aura fait la paie"? R Oui.

Q Nous avons eu devant la Cour un certain nombr d'enveloppes. Savez-vous si c'est observé par la compagnie Wabasso cette disposition là?

R Non,monsieur.

Q Vous le savez pas? R Je l'ai pas vérifié.

Q Sans vérification vous ne le savez pas ni en blanc ni en noir? R Non.

Q Vous avez jamais vu les enveloppes de paye?

R Je veux pas dire que non, parce que l'hiver dernier, j'ai vu deux ou trois enveloppes pour temps de travail pas des femmes.

Q. Vous n'avez jamais vu aucune enveloppe pour les femmes? R. Non.

Q. Alors vous n'êtes pas en état de dire que cette disposition est observée? R. Non, monsieur.

Q. Il a été question hier que la compagnie avait eu recours à vous-mêmes, pour être exemptée d'un certain nombre de dispositions, que si on observait pas telle ou telle loi, c'est qu'elle bénificierait d'une dispense de faveur obtenue de M.Carle.
Avez-vous donné des dispenses à la compagnie Wabasso quant à l'observance de certaines dispositions des lois, que vous êtes chargé de faire observer?

R. Aucun permis n'a été donné à la Wabasso de ne pas observer les lois. La Wabasso est tenue d'observer les lois et n'a jamais eu de permis au contraire.

Q. Je me suis mal exprimé sans doute. Mon savant ami m'indique des établissements industrielles et commerciaux. La première rapportée dans la modification que nous avons à la page 12: "L'inspecteur, pour des raisons suffisantes qui lui sont données, et dans le but de refaire le temps perdu involontairement ou de satisfaire aux besoins de l'industrie ou commerce, peut, pour un temps qui ne doit pas excéder six semaines, prolonger la durée de travail des garçons au-dessous de dix-huit ans, des filles et femmes, jusqu'à douze heures par jour ou soixante-cinq heures par semaine,..
Avez-vous donné à la Wabasso un permis dans ce sens?

R. Du tout, j'ai pas donné de permission sur l'article 17.

Q. Vous savez, voici. Je n'ai pas l'intention

de lire toute les lois, tous les articles, article par article, et vous demandez s'il y a eu une permission ou dispense d'accordée, je ne veux pas jouer sur les mots et vous non plus, mais est-ce que la compagnie Wabasso, vous a demandé soit par écrit ou verbalement une dispense, a obtenu une autorisation ou une dispense, de ne pas suivre quelques unes des lois ou des ordonnances qui ordinairement la régissent?

R D'après ce que je comprends, vous voulez mentionner l'article 17 A, des permis pour ne pas observér la loi elle en a pas eu aucun.

Q M.Carle, quand la loi stipule une chose, quand la même loi dit que cette chose là ne sera pas obligatoire, si l'inspecteur relève la compagnie de l'observance, je dirais que c'est suivant la loi, puisque la loi existe et exige une chose, mais le préposé peut la dispenser, alors s'il y a dispense l'industriel et l'inspecteur ont suivi la loi. Vous a-t-on demandé en vertu de quelques unes des dispositions, avez-vous donné des adoucissements à des stipulations de la loi? R Je comprends ce que vous voulez dire. A l'article 17 A, qui permet des changements. La Wabasso a demandé un permis, d'après l'article 17a, pour avoir des équipes de travail féminines, entre sept heures du matin et onze heures du soir.

Q Quand vous donnez comme ça un adoucissement à la loi en vertu de la loi, le donnez vous par écrit?

R C'est un certificat spécial.

Q Voudrez-vous à l'intermède du diner, relever à votre bureau les permissions que vous avez pu donner, dispense ou permission que vous avez pu donner à la Wabasso?

R Oui, c'est le seul permis que j'ai donné depuis que je suis inspecteur.

Q Si c'est le seul, voudrez-vous l'apporter?

R Très bien.

Q Je comprends que vous vous occupez de l'hygiène dans le moulin? R C'est à dire c'est le bureau d'hygiène des Trois Rivières.

Q Si vous allez au moulin, et constaté quelque chose de défectueux, vous le rapportez àu bureau d'hygiène? R C'est à dire c'est le bureau d'hygiene des Trois Rivières. Oui, on doit surveiller quand on fait l'inspection, de voir à la propreté des cabinets, voir à ce qu'on ait de la bonne eau.

Q Vous parlez des cabinets, j'ai constaté que les cabinets d'aisance n'ont pas de sièges?

R Oui, j'ai fait la même constatation moi même.

Q Est-ce que parce que vous avez demandé qu'il en soit ainsi qu'ils n'ont pas de sièges?

R J'ai fait l'inspection, voici un an, et j'ai constaté ça. J'ai fait rapport à Québec à J.P. S.Desrochers, inspecteurs en chef, et la réponse fut, qu'après consultation avec le bureau de Trois Rivières, on avait décidé d'enlever les couverts.

Q Qui? R M.Desrochers, avec le bureau d'hygiene des Trois Rivières.

Q Si la chose a été faite c'est sur votre intervention? R Avant que je sois nommé inspecteur, et c'est avec entente avec le bureau d'hygiène des Trois Rivières.

Q Quand votre attention a été attirée, vous avez pas été plus loin et n'avez pas suggéré,

si ça devait être pas de sièges, que ça pourrait être des bols de cabinets faits spécialement?

R J'ai fait comme je vous disais, on m'a répondu de Québec que le tout avait été permis.

Q Vous avez constaté probablement quelque chose?

R Que ce n'était pas très très commode.

Q Que c'étaient des cabinets qui autrefois avaient un siège? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Et les sièges sont partis n'est-ce pas? R Oui.

Q Vous savez probablement qu'il y a des cabinets d'aisance qui sont faits pour n'avoir pas de sièges, et qu'il y en a d'autres qui n'ont pas de sièges mais qui sont supposés en avoir? R Oui, monsieur.

(la page 730 suit)

Q. Et ceux-là, n'en avaient pas du tout, ils n'en avaient pas, ils avaient été enlevé.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous n'avez- pas attirez l'attention de la Compagnie que le cabinet d'aisance, n'avait pas de siège ?

R. J'en ai parlé à M. Hagger, mais ce n'est pas commode .... Il a dit qu'il avait eu la permission de Québec pour marcher comme cela.

Q. Vous avez cru que votre juridiction était dépassée?

R. Québec m'a fait rapport de ne pas m'en occuper d'avantage; j'ai ma correspondance au bureau concernant ces instructions.

Q. Maintenant, la poussière, avez-vous déjà constaté le degré de poussière qu'il y a dans l'usine. ?

R. Je sais qu'il y a beaucoup de poussière.

Q. Vous savez qu'il y a un système de ventilation?

R. Oui.

R. Vous avez constaté cela ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous connaissez ce système là? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ce système sert à quoi ? R. A sortir le mauvais air et à en entrer du bon.

Q. Ca fonctionne comment ? R. Par des éventails électriques.

Q. L'évantail fait quoi ? R. Un tir et l'autre pousse.

Q. Autrement dit, l'air est chassé pour en faire entrer de la nouvelle. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Puis, où va-t-il cet air là ? R. En dehors.

Q. Ce n'est pas de même que j'ai vu cela; ne croyez-vous pas que l'air de la maison, croez-vous plutôt que l'air est continuellement chassé au dehors ?

R. Je le crois.

Q. Je crois, moi, que l'air à l'intérieur devrait être chassé, dans une chambre spéciale, dans la cave, pour là y être nettoyée. R. Pour la salopperie, ça c'est envoyé dans un endroit sépparément, pour être nettoyé, et ensuite l'air vient dehors sur les couvertures, Il y a des tuyaux d'air qui fait entrer l'air.

Q. Si cela fonctionne comme vous dites, on expulse de la boutique un air qui varie entre 80 et 90 degrés de chaleur et on le remplace par de l'air de l'extérieur qui varie .... vous savez quoi, qui est souvent en bas de zéro. R.- Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous pensez bien que l'on ne peut pas dans une usine chasser avec un tuyau de deux ou trois pouces de diamètres chasser en dehors, pour introduire/au dehors, par un tuyau, l'air de l'intérieur ?

R. Certainement par une communication directe, il faut controler l'air afin quelle reste toujours au même degré dans l'usine.

Q. Etes-vous allé faire l'inspection, dernierement?

R. Non.

Q. J'Y suis allé, moi. J'ai trouvé l'air pesant.

R. J'ai pensé que l'air était pesant, j'ai vu un système, mais qui ne fonctionnait pas, s'il fonctionnait , il fonctionnait mal.

Q. Savez-vous que d'ordinairement, que dans l'usine, l'on marche au milieu d'une poudre de coton, continuellement.

R. Quand j'y suis allé, il y avait toujours une petite neige ou une poussière.

Q. Avez-vous visité d'autres usines à coton ?

R. Je suis allé visiter l'usine de coton à Beauport ?

Q. Avec un même système d'air ? R. Oui.

Q. Ca fonctionne ? R. Ca fonctionne comme ici.

Q. Vous n'avez jamais vu un autre système ailleurs, dont le résultat serait meilleur ?

R. Je n'ai pas vu d'autres industries du genre, c'est la seule, ici que j'ai vue.

Q. Vous voulez dire, Momorency au lieu de Beauport ?

R. Justement.

Q. Si vous aviez reçu des plaintes de jeunes filles à propos de salaires minimums, ou de d'autres personnes, en auriez-vous gardé trace par écrit ?

R. Certainement.

Q. On me donne ici, le nom de trois personnes qui se seraient plaintes à vous. N'avez-vous aucun souvenir d'avoir reçu des plaintes de ces personnes-là ?

R. Donnez moi les noms.

Q. Mademoiselle Paris, Laquerre et Dubé.

R. Je vais regarder dans ma correspondance, ce midi.

Q. Pendant que vous chercherez pour celles-là, cherchez donc pour voir s'il n'y en aurait pas d'autres ?

R. Cela, ce sont des plaintes pour le salaire minimum.

Je vais vérifier dans mes filières, s'il y en a eues.

Q. Au sujet du travail des garçons et des jeunes filles surtout, de l'âge pour leur admission à l'usine, au paragraphe 3 de la section 4, à la page 10, il est dit que la patron peut engager des jeunes filles et des garçons et si c'est requis, il doit présenter un certificat d'âge, signé par les parents, ou le tuteur et de toute autre personne, ayant la garde de l'enfant, ou du médecin, à ce sujet. N'avez- vous jamais demandé aux patrons à la Wabasso .... vous savez qu'il y a des enfants plutôt jeunes.

R. En bas de quatorze ans, ils n'ont pas le droit de travailler.

Q. Oui, mais on se demande, s'ils ont l'âge.

R. La loi permet aux enfants de travailler à 14 ans.

Q. Un enfant de 14 ans, ne peut travailler dans un endroit dangereux.

Me LAJOIE:

Qu'il plaise à M. le Commissaire, l'on vient de donner le terme explicatif, dangereux; la Wabasso n'est pas une place dangereuse, M. Carle ? R. Non.

Me LAJOIE:

Regardez l'article 8, à la page 11, vous allez voir l'expression où l'on peut travailler à 14 ans.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Q. Avez vous déjà demandé, vous êtes-vous déjà assuré de l'âge des enfants qui travaillaient là ?

R. Non, je n'ai pas fait d'enquète spécial.

J'ai signé deux permis, en 1935, pour deux garçons qui avaient 15 ans; ils m'ont demandé de signer ces deux permis.

Q. Vous avez l'autorisé l'emploi de deux jeunes garçons ? R. de quinze ans. Parce que la loi dit qu'ils peuvent exiger un permis de l'inspecteur; Ils en ont exigés deux et je les ai signés.

Q. C'est le patron qui vous a demandé cela ? R. Oui.

Q. Vous n'avez jamais demandé au patron de produire la preuve de l'âge lorsque il pouvait y avoir un doute. R. Non monsieur.

Q. Vous avez constaté qu'il y en avait qui avait l'air bien jeunes ? R. Je vous dirai bien franchement que quand je passe, on ne les voit pas tous, quand j'y suis allé, il y avait deux quarts, il y en avait un qui était en dehors.

Q. Quand celà ? R. L'été dernier, au mois d'août, ou juillet.

Q. Vous n'êtes pas retourné là depuis le mois d'août ? R. Non, je n'y suis pas allé pour faire des inspections, j'y suis allé seulement pour assister à l'assemblée.

Q. Vous n'avez pas fait d'inspection dans le moulin, depuis l'été dernier. R. Non monsieur.

(Page 740 suit:)

Q. A l'automne, une inspection a été faite par une femme venue de Québec. Vous savez qu'il y a beaucoup de siège dans le moulin, beaucoup d'endroits pour s'asseoir?

R. Des chaises pour tous ouvriers qui peuvent faire leur travail assis.

Q. Est-ce que ça existait l'été passé? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous avez constaté quéelle n'ont pas de dossier ces femmes là qui travaillent sur des chaises. R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Vous croyez que c'est mieux qu'il n'y ait pas de dossier?

R. Elles peuvent avoir un banc avec dossier ou pas de dossier.

Q. Est-ce que les bancs n'ont pas de dossier parce que les ouvriers ont opté pour ne pas en avoir ou pour en avoir?

R. Je ne connais pas leur demande.

Q. Vous savez que la loi dit qu'un ouvrier qui travaille assis doit avoir un dossier? R. Ci requis par l'employé.

Q. Ce sont eux qui doivent exiger du patron l'observance de la loi? R. La loi dit: "Un banc ou un siège avec dossier l'un ou l'autre"

Q. A quel article référez-vous? R. Un banc, une chaise, avec dossier si c'est exigé.

Q. Savez-vous si depuis juillet l'an dernier, la loi dit: "Chaise avec dossier".? R. S'il ne l'avait pas, ils se seraient plains.

Q. La loi veut que vous fassiez telle ou telle chose sur pl~~é~~inte des employés? Croyez-vous que votre rôle est de prendre un peu de temps.? R. Ces bancs ont été installés avant ma nomination, d'après les ordres du bureau à Québec.

Q. Que voulez-vous dire par les ordres du bureau de Québec, vous n'avez pas de papier de celà? R. Je ne peux pas changer les ordres que Québec donnent.

Q. Comment savez-vous que ce sont les ordres du bureau de Québec? R. Parce que M. Desrochers lui-même me l'a dit.

Q. Par écrit? R. Il me l'a dit verbalement.

Q. Quand? R. J'y vois quatre ou cinq fois par année.

Q. Pouvez-vous dire la date au juste? R. Ca fait a peu près un an, quand Québec donne des ordres, je ne peux pas les changer.

Q. Ce n'est pas sur la page 25, parmi les règlements?

ME LAJOIE: je vais le trouver .

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Le numéro 69, clause B. Bien-être des employés: "Les ouvriers et ouvrières devront être pourvus de chaises convenables avec un dossier" Est-ce celà que vous venez de dire ME BEAUREGARD?

ME BEAUREGARD: C'est justement celà.

ME LAJOIE: Les règlements à l'appui de la loi.

ME BEAUREGARD: Dans l'article 69,il est dit: Les ouvriers et ouvrières dont leur travail leur permet de s'asseoir devront être pourvus de chaises convenables avec un dossier". Vous voyez que c'est un règlement, ce n'est pas une plainte individuelle.

LE TEMOIN: Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, ces bancs ont été installés d'après l'ordre de M. Desrochers de Québec, je ne puis pas changer ses ordres, quand il donne un ordre, je ne peux pas le changer.

Q. Vous ne croyez pas qu'il est dans votre juridiction d'exiger ce qui est décemment convenable pour le bien être des ouvriers même si la loi ne le mentionne pas? R. Les ouvriers ont une heure pour les repas, s'ils ne la prenne pas c'est pas qu'ils n'ont pas voulu la prendre. Ils ont refusé de la prendre, j'ai demandé à M. Whitehead: "Donneriez-vous une demi-heure" Il a dit: certainement.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Lisez donc la clause C.

ME BEAUREGARD: "En tenant compte du nombre des employés, l'inspecteur pourra exiger que le patron donne aux employés un local propre pour prendre leurs repas" Connaissez-vous dans la boutique un endroit, une salle, appelé un endroit propre pour que les ouvriers prennent leurs repas. R. Pas jque je connaisse.

Q. Alors, les bancs il n'y a pas de place pour les mettre.
R. Parce que les ouvriers, ici, sont supposés prendre leurs repas chez eux.

Q. Ca fait un an que cette loi là a été faite? R. Certainement. Je fais mon devoir, parce que Québec a donné un ordre.

Q. Avez-vous écrit à Québec, que la clause C. n'était pas observée parce qu'il n'y avait pas un "local propre pour prendre leurs repas" ? R. J'en ai fait la remarque à l'inspecteur en chef.

Q. Monsieur....? R. J.P.S.Desrochers.

Q. A quel endroit, Québec ou Montréal? R. Québec.

Q. Vous lui avez dit qu'il n'y avait pas de place pour manger.?
R. Je lui ai dit qu'il n'y avait pas de place pour manger.

Q. Avec des bancs? R. Avec des bancs pour s'asseoir et pour manger.

Q. La réponse a été quoi, qudest-ce qu'il a dit?
R. Que le cas avait été réglé après entente avec les autorités, probablement, il était au courant de la chose. L'été dernier,il est venu faire une inspection lui-même. Il a pu vérifier la même chose. Il est venu avec une dame inspectrice, ils ont fait le tour de l'usine, j'étais pas là.

Q. "Et un vestiaire convenable pour y déposer leurs vêtements de sortie". Il n'y en avait pas de celà, non p lus? R. Non.

Q. Savez-vous qu'il y en a? R. Il y en a peut-être pas dans tous les départements.

Q. Vous n 'avez pas vu s 'il y en a ? R. J'ai vu les départements qu'il y avait des places pour mettre leurs habits. J'en ai vu d'autres que les habits étaient tout le long des murs. Toutes ces remarques ont été mises ensemble dans le même rapport.

Q. Le rapport de quoi ?, avez-vous un rapport d'écrit?

R. Un rapport verbal que j 'ai fait à Québec,. J'ai fait l'inspection, j 'ai mentionné à M. Desrochers de tout ce que j 'ai vu, bancs, salle ‘a diner, les couverts des cabinets, j'ai vu ce qui en était. Le cas a été réglé.

Q. A quelle date ça remonte cette pi‘ece-là? R. Je vais le prendre en note, je vous le dirai cette après-midi.

Q. La date de l 'inspection ? R. La date de l 'inspection.

Q. Pas la date de l'inspection, la date du rapport que vous avez fait ‘a Monsieur Dersochers? R.....

Q. Vous saviez que le manger, qu'on est mieux pour manger sur une chaise? R. Certainement.

Q. Qu'on est mieux pour manger dans une petite salle propre comme le dit le texte de la loi.? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Vous savez que les ouvriers sont obligés ‘a un moment donné de prendre leur linge. R. Ce n 'est pas un endroit alléchant pour manger. C 'est justement la raison qu 'on oblige les jeunes filles à avoir leur heure de repas pour qu 'elles puissent aller diner chez elle.

Q. Savez-vous s'il y avait des ouvriers qui apportaient leur manger dans des boites? R. Le soir, je sais que oui.

Q. Savez-vous s'il y avait un endroit pour déposer leur manger?

R. C'est parce qu'ils en avaient pas qu 'ils demandaient des bancs.

Q. Quand j'ai fait la remarque, tous les employés du jour allaient manger chez eux, prenaient leur diner à domicile.

Q. Alors, tout cela, ça remonte ‘a l 'été passé? R. L 'été pass.

Me LAJOIE: S 'il y a d 'autres questions à poser, j'aimerais mieux qu'on finisse pour que je commence mon interrogatoire sur la transquestion.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: M. Beauregard, vous avez fini dans cinq minutes?

ME BEAUREGARD: M. Carle doit m'apporter des documents à l'ajournement, sans quoi, j'aurai fini.

LA SEANCE EST SUSPENDUE A MIDI ET DEMI POUR ETRE REPRISE A DEUX HEURES.

(Page 780 follows)

(La séance suspendue à midi et demi est reprise à 2 heures).

Par Me.BEAUREGARD:

Q. Vous avez dit ce matin que vous voudriez bien apporter cet après midi? R. La copie de la lettre de M.Desrochers au sujet des cabinets de toilette.

Q. Si vous l'avez? R. Oui.

Q. Alors M. Carle, vous nous remettrez maintenant copie d'une lettre adressée par vous à M. J.P.S. Desrochers, inspecteur en chef des Edifices Publics à Québec, en date du 3 janvier 1935 où vous dites comme suit: "J'ai ce jour fait l'inspection à la "Wabasso Cotton Co. Ltd et je dois vous dire que pas "un seul cabinet de toilette n'a de couvert ni dans "le département des hommes ni des femmes, j'ai demandé à quelques employées et elles m'ont dit que "c'était très malcommode.

"La compagnie at-elle le droit de laisser des "cabinets sans couvert, si non, voudriez-vous leur "envoyer une ordre de voir à faire poser des sièges "à tous leurs cabinets de toilette.

"Votre directive dans cette affaire m'obli"gera beaucoup."

"Québec, le 4 janvier 1935.

"M.A.C.Carle, Inspecteur
"Trois-Rivières. P.Q.

"Cher Monsieur:

"J'accuse réception de votre lettre du 3 cou"rant, Re: Cabinets de toilette à la Wabasso Cotton "Co.,

"Pour des raisons d'hygiène, nous préférons "que les cabinets de toilette dans ces établissements

" n'aient pas de sièges, ce qui empêche l'accumulation " de déchets, que l'on rencontre quelquefois sur les " dits sièges.

" Votre tout dévoué

(Signé) J.P.S. Desrochers.

Inspecteur en Chef ".

Voulez-vous produire cette lettre et la réponse comme pièce 59? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous avez pas dit à M. Desrochers que c'étaient des bols de cabinets qui étaient pas faits pour n'avoir pas de sièges? R Non, exactement ce qu'il y a sur la lettre.

Q Vous savez que ces bols de cabinets sont pas des cabinets d'aisance? R Ce sont des bols supposées avoir des sièges.

Q Et les bols qui n'ont pas de couverts, ne sont pas comme ça? R Non.

Q Seriez-vous d'accord avec moi, qu'il serait mieux d'avoir l'autre genre de bols? R Certainement.

Q Maintenant monsieur Carle, dans quelle condition se trouvent ces chambres de toilette, dans toute la batisse de la Wabasso? R Lors de mon inspection elles étaient très propres, le 3 janvier 1935.

Q Faites-vous un rapport écrit des inspection?

R J'en prends not.

Q Je veux dire, gardez-vous une copie de vos rapports? R Oui.

Q L'avez-vous là? R Non, j'ai un livre où j'entre tout ceci dedans, toutes mes inspections sont entrées dans le même livre.

Q Vous parlez de l'inspection de quel temps là?

R Du 3 janvier.

Q 1935? R Oui.

Q Combien d'inspections avez-vous fait après cette date? R C'est la seule que j'ai fait.

Q Quand nous parlions d'une inspection autour de l'été 1935, nous avions tort tous les deux, nous aurions du dire que c'était l'inspection du 3 janvier 1935? R Oui.

Q Vous n'êtes pas retourné pour inspection depuis ce temps ? R Non. On a parlé ici de salle à manger, lors de mon inspection j'ai remarqué, d'après mes notes dans le temps, qu'il y avait que deux équipes de travaillants, une de jour et une de nuit, et les deux équipes avaient une heure pour aller prendre leurs repas, il était pas question de prendre les repas là, c'est la raison pour laquelle je n'ai pas insisté pour la salle à dîner.

Q Maintenant allez-vous insister pour les salles à manger? R Au mois de mai, ils ont commencé à organiser leurs travaillants par trois équipes, les filles de 8 heures à quatre heures de l'après midi, là on m'a fait des plaintes, j'ai pris ces plaintes au cours d'une assemblée à laquelle j'assistais, où il y avait des demoiselles qui disaient qu'elles prenaient leurs repas tout en travaillant, c'était malpropre et contre l'hygiène et j'ai écrit à Québec en date du 16 mai 1935 expliquant la situation.

Q Vous avez copie de cette lettre là?

R Certainement, c'est quand ils ont commencé les équipes de huit heures.

Q Vous avez en date du 16 mai 1935, écrit à M. J.P.S.Desrochers, la même personne dont il est question précédemment, comme suit:

"Trois Rivières, Mai 16 1935.

"Mr.J.P.S.Desrochers
"231 rue St.Paul,
"Quebec, P.Q.

"Cher Monsieur: RE: Wabasso Cotton Co.Ltd."

"Les femmes employées dans cette industrie "pour une bonne partie travaille maintenant sur un "quart de 8 heures, soit de 8 A.M. à 4 P.M. elles "doivent manger en travaillant et n'ont même pas "la permission de s'asseoir, et quand même elles voudraient, elles n'ont pas de sièges. Ces employées "travaillent très fort, elles ont 32 métiers à surveiller chacune. Qu'en pensez-vous et que me "conseillez-vous de faire, d'après votre expérience "du passé."

Q Quelle a été la réponse? R Le surlendemain j'ai eu un téléphone me disant, j'ai reçu votre lettre, le cas est-il très pressé, je lui ai répond: vous avez vu ma lettre, il m'a répond immédiatement: j'irai à Trois Rivières prochainement et je verrai; s'il y a d'autres plaintes laissez le moi savoir.

Q Voulez-vous produire cette copie de votre lettre à Monsieur Desrochers comme pièce 60? R Oui. A présent au sujet de trois filles dont vous m'avez donné les noms ce matin, je trouve aucun record de plaintes au bureau.

Q Vous vous rappelez que Melle Paris, Laquerre et Dubé....? R J'ai reçu aucune plainte.

Q Vous n'avez pas dans vos livres de traces de plaintes? R Non.

Q Vous ne vous rappelez pas avoir reçu de plaintes? R Non.

Q Etes-vous en état de dire qu'aucune plainte ne vous a été faite? R Si j'aurais eu des plaintes elles auraient été par écrit, et aussi je leur fait signer leurs plaintes.

Q Votre façon de procéder c'est de faire mettre leurs plaintes par écrit? R Je ne crois pas qu'il y ait eu de plaintes de portées, parce que toute la papeterie est toute dans la même filière.

Q Lors de votre visite avez-vous observé s'il y avait des désinfectants dans les salles de toilette? R Dans le temps il y en avait.

Q Le temps c'est janvier 1935? R Oui, le 3.

Q Etes-vous au fait que la plupart des hommes qui travaillent au moulin, sont obligés de se changer pratiquement au complet pour travailler, enlèvent leurs habits et se mettre en sous-vêtements, mettre des salopettes et ensuite ils enlèvent leurs salopettes pour s'habiller pour la rue?

R J'ai pas fait la remarque

Q Vous avez dû voir par les habits? R Dans la bleacherie surtout.

Q Vous avez vu des habits complets qui sont accrochés au mur? R Oui.

Q Ils se changent ces gens là? R J'ai compris que c'étaient les pardessus qu'ils mettaient pour dehors.

Q Vous ne savez rien de cette affaire là?

R Dans les souvêtements là, non.

Q Vous savez que s'il y avait un endroit pour s'habiller....vous ne connaissez rien de ça?

R Non, je ne suis pas au courant de ça.

Q Maintenant, avez-vous trouvé des traces, de ce que nous appelions ce matin des dispenses à la loi?

R Voici le seul permis qui a été donné pour la double équipe, c'est pas une formule spéciale, c'est ce qu'ils m'ont envoyé pour prendre la place.

Q Dites-vous que ceci a été fait en 1935?

R C'est un permis de double équipe, pour travailler deux groupes de femmes entre six heures du matin et onze heures du soir.

Q En français c'est marqué: " Double équipe- Nom de l'établissement, Wabasso Cotton Company,- Adresse, Trois Rivières, ce 6 août 1935, et en anglais c'est marqué: " Double gang" Name of establishment- The Wabasso Cotton Company, Address, Trois Rivières, this 6 day of August 1936?"

R Je peux avoir fait erreur sur la copie ce midi on est en 1936.

Q C'est une co pie? R Oui.

Q C'est pas une copie faite dans le temps où vous avez donné le permis? R Non.

Q Vous aviez pas gardé de copie? R Je garde seulement qu'une entrée dans un livre: un permis a été émis à telle date pour double équipe.

Q Vous avez fait ce midi une copie du permis que vous avez donné dans ce temps là? R Oui.

Q Corrigez le donc? (Le témoin corrige le permis)

Q Quel est l'objet de ce permis? R Pour permettre aux filles et femmes de pouvoir travailler sur deux groupes, en vue de la loi de 48 heures,

fixée par Ottawa, qui n'est pas encore en force.

Par le Commissaire: Règlement 17a?

R Oui, la loi n'a pas été amendée,les filles auraient pas pu travailler.

Par Me. Lajoie: Page 248.

Par le COMMISSAIRE: C'est reproduit deux fois, parce que je l'ai ici à la page 12.

Par Me.LAJOIE: Oui, page 12.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q Voulez-vous produire le document comme étant la copie du permis? R Oui.

Q Comme pièce no.61? R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous avez mis les lois sur un carton comme ça?

R La même chose.

Q C'est marqué en bas: " Ce permis autorise l'aménagement de la double équipe? R Oui,d'après l'article 17a, qui est insérée là.

Q En tout cas c'est la formule que vous avez donnée?

R Justement.

Q Que vous avez produit comme 61? R Oui.

Q Entre nous, c'est comme si vous aviez donné le projet de loi à l'usine, vous donnez l'article en vertu duquel vous êtes autorisez, mais le document ne donne aucune permission?

R C'est ~~xxxxxx~~ marqué en bas: "permis d'équipe double".

Q Vous devez signer en bas du permis?

R Je le sais pas.

Q Vous ne donnez pas votre signature d'abord et le permis après?

R Je fais ce qu'on m'a dit de faire à Québec.

Q.- Qui vous a dit de faire ça. (Le témoin remet

une lettre à Mtre Beauregard). Québec vous a fait cadeau ou a fait cadeau à l'usine de trois éditions de l'article 17 A? R.- C'est d'après l'ordre que vous avez dans les mains.

Q Voulez-vous attacher à la pièce 61 la lettre adressée par votre officier supérieur pour vous dire comment faire le permis? R Justement.

Q Vous avez voulu suivre les instructions de la lettre? R Justement.

Q C'est la seule compagnie où vous avez permis, je ne dirai pas de ne pas suivre la loi, ce serait inexact, mais que vous auriez accordé les adoucissements de la loi? R Justement.

Q A l'occasion de votre visite à l'établissement, vous avez dû voir qu'un grand nombre de courroie, n'est-ce pas, qui partent de terre ou à peu près, et montent jusqu'à l'arbre de couche, et où l'on passe à coté de ces courroies n'est-ce pas? R Oui.

Q Vous savez que la loi attire spécialement votre attention sur les transmissions par courroie, c'est l'article 32 à la page 21 de notre codification: " Les transmissions par courroies, cables ou arbres et engrenages ou roues dentées qui se trouvent dans un espace où les ouvriers sont appelés à circuler, doivent être enfermées dans des caisses où des gaines jusqu'à hauteur de 5 pieds au dessus du sol". Vous connaissez cet article? R Oui.

Q Vous savez que c'est un des plus importants articles de la loi? R Oui.

Q Si vous avez visité l'établissement, vous avez dû voir des centaines de courroies comme ça, qui partent d'un pieds ou deux pieds de terre et qui

sont dans l'allée, où on est obligé de passer et de l'éviter, des fois l'allée est assez large mais d'autres sont trées étroites. Avez-vous demandé à la compagnie de suivre la loi, quant à l'habillement de ces courroies? R Non à ce sujet là, il en a pas été question.

Q Avez-vous visité des établissements similaires, dans d'sutres maisons, où vos confrères ont exigé ce point là? R Celle de ce matin à Montmorency, avec l'inspecteur en chef, il y avait la même chose et non protégée. Ce sont les deux seuls industries que j'ai vue, dans l'industrie du coton.

Q Vous rapportant à l'article 32. Vous le connaissez?

R Certainement.

Q Vous ne savez- pas pourquoi on ne l'a pas fait faire? R A Québec, lorsque j'ai fait l'inspection avec l'inspecteur en chef, la même chose existait, j'ai demandé: ces courroies les faites-vous protéger, il dit: ce n'est pas nécessaire.

Q Qui vous a dit ça? R L'inspecteur de Québec, c'était pour m'initier à l'ouvrage, pour me montrer ce qu'il y avait à faire, je lui ai montré ces courroies là, il dit ce n'est pas nécessaire.

Q Quand la loi dit que c'est nécessaire, et votre inspecteur dit que ce n'est pas nécessaire, vous dites que ce n'est pas nécessaire? R C'est ce qu'il m'a dit.

Q Vous savez aussi que ces courroies se trouvent dans des allées très étroites n'est-ce pas?

R Certainement.

Q Vous les avez vues?

R Oui, certainement.

Q Alors est-ce que vous ne croyez pas comme moi?

R Pour moi ce serait préférable de le faire.

Q Qu'est-ce qui vous retient de le faire? Voyez-vous quelque chose qui empêche? R Pas moi même, lorsque je suis venu ici, on m'a dit: avant de rien faire de changements, de m'adresser à Québec, pour avoir des ordre avant, que ce n'est pas à moi même de donner les ordres, qu'eux avaient plus d'expérience et qu'on donnerait les ordres. Je sais que Desrochers a passé lui même, l'inspecteur en chef.

Q Quand? R L'été dernier.

Q C'est lui qui est venu ici à votre place?

R Lui est venu avec une dame inspectrice de Québec, et il a jugé à propos de les laisser faire, comme inspecteur en chef.

Q Avez-vous observé en même temps un grand nombre d'arbres de couche qui ne sont pas protégés, à hauteur de la taille, trois pieds ou trois pieds et demi?

R Non je n'ai pas remarqué.

Q Savez-vous que dans un grand nombre de moulins on passe une espèce ce collet ou chapeau à ces essieux là? R Pour les protéger, je sais.

Q Dans l'usine du textile? R C'est la seule que j'ai visité, ici et Québec, je n'avais pas d'expérience beaucoup, l'inspecteur en chef est venu avec moi à Québec, et ici l'inspecteur en chef est venu lui même faire l'inspection, j'ai pas eu ordre de marcher au contraire de ce qu'il avait décidé.

Q Alors, si vous maintenez cette ligne de conduite, l'inspecteur en chef venant et ne faisant rien, et vous non plus? R Vous pourriez donner les ordres à l'ispecteur en chef.

Q C'est parce que je pensais que vous étiez inspecteur? R Je suis sous les ordres du chef Desrochers, et je n'ai rien à faire sans ses ordres.

Q Avez-vous ça par écrit? R Verbalement, de sa part, quand je suis allé à Québec, c'est quand j'ai été engagé.

Q Quand ce voyage à Québec? R Le 2 novembre 1935. Quand j'ai été engagé.

Q 1935? R 1934, lors de mon engagement, à son bureau à Québec.

Par Mtre LAJOIE:

Q Avez-vous vu s'il y avait de la protection contre le feu, contre les paniques, des issues de sauvetage? R Oui, des extincteurs automatiques, des escaliers, ce qui leur faut.

Q Cette usine là est-elle placée parmi les usines dangereuses en vertu de la loi des établissements industriels? R Non, si il l'était, il y aurait aucune fille qui travaillerait là.

Q Voulez-vous prendre connaissance de l'ordonnance No.5 et nous dire, au sujet du salaire minimum des femmes, si cette ordonnance est affichée dans le moulin? R Oui, il y a six copies à différentes places.

Q Voulez-vous la produire comme pièce 62? R Oui.

Par Mtre BEAUREGARD:

Q Y a-t-il une copie dans le bureau de celui qui fait la paye? R Il y en a une dans leur bureaux, il y en a certainement une.

Par Me.LAJOIE:

Q Est-ce que les certificats en vertu de la loi des accidents du travail sont affichés dans le moulin?

R Oui,au punch.

Q- Avez-vous vérifié si les machinistes,les électriciens avaient leurs licences? R Oui, la compagnie a aussi une licence.

Q Vous avez vérifié ça?- R Oui monsieur.

Q Voyez-vous si les heures de travail sont observées? R Oui monsieur.

Q Est-ce que les certificats des mécaniciens sont affichés aussi? R Mécaniciens, machines fixes, les certificats sont a ffichés à la salle des bouilloires.

Q A leur salle? R Oui.

Q Avez-vous vérifié s'il y avait un régistre pour les employés? R Chaque employé a une carte mentionnant son nom, son adresse et son âge.

Q Vous avez vu les filières de cartes? R Oui, j'ai eu affaire à fouiller moi même dans les cartes, j'ai eu à vérifier les cartes.

Q Dans les filières? R Oui.

Q Les portes de l'usine s'ouvrent suivant la loi, suivant le règlement No.13? R, Oui, en dehors.

Q Au sujet des chaises qui sont employées, êtes-vous allé dans un département où les jeunes filles ont des chaises pas de dos, mais où elles travaillent à coudre de l'insertion, du hemstitch? R Oui, sur les draps et les taies d'oreillers.

Q Croyez-vous que des dos de chaises pourraient leur être utiles dans leur travail? R Pas pour moi, elles ont pas le temps de s'accoter.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q.- Pas un petit moment d'arret? R Non, leurs machines travaillent très vite, ils ont un travail très vite, ça prend tout leur temps pour s'occuper

de leur travail.

Par Mtre LAJOIE.

Q Au sujet des cheveux des jeunes filles, est-ce que la nouvelle loi s'accorde avec la nouvelle mode, les cheveux courts? R Extra.

Q Est-ce que beaucoup ont les cheveux longs?

R On en trouve presque pas.

Q Avez-vous remarqué si dans des départements où il y avait dangers de recevoir dqs parcelles d'acier, s'il y avait des lunettes appropriés, pour les opérateurs? R Dans la machine shop il y a des lunettes pour protéger les yeux des étincelles de la meule d'émery, des goggles qu'ils appellent.

Q Avez-vous pu constaté que l'échelle des salaires, et par les prix retirés, si des jeunes filles faisaient beaucoup plus que leur échelle de salaire?

R J'ai remarqué que dans le département des machines à coudre, les salaires des filles variaient en général de 40 à 50% de plus que le salaire minimum, salaire fixé par l'échelle. L'é chelle fixait de $10.00 et j'ai constaté des salaires de $14.00, $15.00, $16.00 par semaine, sur copie de la liste qu'on a eu à la Wabasso.

Q Chez les jeunes filles? R Oui.

PAR Me BEAUREGARD.

Q Tout ce que vous venez de dire à Mtre Lajoie, que vous aviez vérifié, dois-je comprendre que tout ça a été vérifié en janvier 1935? R Tout à la même inspection de janvier le 3 1935.

Q C'est cette fois là que vous avez visité les cartes? R Non, c'est pas la même inspection, j'avais affaire pour le salaire minimum.

Q C'est à dire les vérifications dont vous venez de parler sont toutes de la même époque? R Oui.

Q Vous avez vérifié les heures de travail?

R Elles ont été vérifiées en vérifiant le salaire minimum.

Q Sur quoi? R Sur les cartes de travail.

Q Vous avez vérifié que la compagnie entrait les heures? R Oui.

Q Avez-vous vérifié si les entrées de la compagnie étaient exactes? R La compagnie est supposée de tenir des filières, tel jour, tant d'heures, les heures de chaque jour, le total d'heures.

Q Avez-vous pris le temps de rester là, et savoir quand les employés étaient là, si ils étaient la tant d'heures, et constaté que ça avait été entré correctement? R C'est difficile de le faire pour 2000 employés.

Q Je voulais vous dire que si vous aviez resté la pour vérifier un cas, je vous féliciterais?

R J'ai vérifié les entrées des employées avec la sortie, de ce temps-ci ils travaillent trois quarts de huit heures, anciennement ils travaillent un quart de dix heures et de nuit.

Q Vous êtes allé voir dans les livres de la compagnie et vous avez vérifié que la compagnie tenait compte des heures de chacun des employés? R Oui.

Q Vous ne pouvez pas dire si ces entrées sont exactes ou non? R Non.

Q Vous avez regardé dans les livres de la compagnie vérifier, sans savoir si c'est vrai? R Vérifier les livres.

Q Sans savoir si les entrées étaient exactes?

R On accepte un rapport certifiée par le propriétaire de l'établissement, on prend sa parole.

Q Combien de jeunes filles y a-t-il qui travaillent au moulin, comme celles dont M.Lajoie vous parlaient, qui gagnaient 40 à 50% plus haut que le salaire minimum? R Il y en avait 62.

Q C'est en bas ça? R Non, aux moulins à coudre.

Q Qu'est-ce qu'elles font?

R Des draps et des taies d'oreillers.

Q C'était en haut? R quand j'y suis allé il me semble que c'était en bas.

Q Elles ont dû déménager depuis ce temps là?

R Je ne le sais pas.

Q Soixante-deux c'est gros? R. J'ai la liste de tous les noms en mains, je suis certain de 62, parce que j'ai pris un questionnaire spécial.

Q Ca ne serait pas exagéré de vous demander cette liste là? R Je l'ai au bureau.

Q Voudrez-vous nous l'apporter? R Certainement.

Q A quelle époque référez-vous quand vous dites que les salaires de ces personnes là du moins, étaient de 40 à 50% plus élevé que le salaire minimum?

R Vous les aurez sur la liste.

Q Quand vous parlez du salaire minimum, vous savez qu'il y a trois classes? R Je veux dire $10.00 en montant,

Q 21 cts de l'heure? R Précisément.

Q C'est de ça que vous voulez parler? R Oui.

Q A quelle date vous rapportez vous? R Vous l'aurez dans le rapport.

Q Je veux le savoir? R Je le sais pas par coeur.

Q Est-ce que ça fait un mois, deux mois?

R Dans le cours de l'hiver dernier.

Q Pas l'hiver 1935-1936, c'est 1934-1935?

R Oui, c'est ça.

Q Vous savez qu'à ce moment là il n'y avait que deux équipes au moulin non pas trois équipes?

R Deux équipes.

Q Quand vous parlez c'est de l'époque des deux équipes? R Oui, cinquante-cinq heures.

Q Vous nous devez seulement que la liste des soixante-deux jeunes filles qui font du hemstitch?

R Oui, très bien.

ET le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

(GEORGES HENRI ROBICHON)

Lequel témoin est assermenté.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q Monsieur Robichon, vous êtes avocat, Conseil du Roi, et mieux, maire de Trois Rivières? R-Tout ça, oui.

Q Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur et de l'Ordre de l'Empire Britannique? R Oui.

Q Il a été question depuis plusieurs jours, de la grève de Trois Rivières, et à l'occasion de la grève de Trois Rivières, il a été question de la participation du maire de la ville dans les procédures de conciliation et règlement de la grève? R Oui.

Q Voulez-vous s'il vous plait dire à la Cour ce que vous avez à dire au sujet de cette grève, afin d'éclairer le Commissaire sur ce que vous avez constaté de la conduite des employés et des patrons dans la grève, ce dont vous avez été au courant, comme propositions de part et d'autres, conciliations, etc.,?

R Je comprends que la grève a commencé le 18 février. Aussitot que j'en ai été informé je me suis mis immédiatement en communication avec, je crois, les autorités de l'Union, en vue de tacher de disposer de ces difficultés qui divisaient l'Union et la compagnie Wabasso Cotton. Nous nous sommes rencontrés à diverses reprises, j'ai même rédigé à un moment donné, je crois que c'était une couple de jours après le début de la grève, j'ai rédigé à un moment donné un projet d'entente. L'union était satisfaite de ce projet d'entente, je l'ai alors soumis aux autorités de la compagnie, qui n'a pas cru devoir l'accepter. Comme ce projet de conciliation n'a pas donné de resultat et que la grève continuait, d'autres tentatives de rapprochement ont été faites, mais sans aucun résultat.

Lorsque finalement des télégrammes ont été échangés... auparavant je devrais dire que des représentants d'Ottawa sont venus, M. Campbell et M.Quirk, et ont tenté eux mêmes de disposer de ces difficultés. Ils ont eu des entrevues avec moi même à mon bureau, et n'ont pas réussi non plus. Lorsque finalement des télégrammes ont été échangées avec Ottawa et les représentants de l'Union, et il fut décidé qu'ils retourneraient travailler. Je crois que c'était le 2 mars.

Q En somme Monsieur le Maire, les grévistes sont retournés au moulin sur la décision qu'eux mêmes ont prises, à la suite de leurs conventions avec Ottawa?

R Je crois que c'est ça.

Q Après avoir tenté par vous à avoir une convention avec les patrons? R Il a été décidé que l'usine ouvrirait le 2 mars, mais l'Union n'avait pas décidé à ce moment là, je comprends de retourner, j'entends les membres de l'union, ou du moins la plupart, n'avaient pas décidé à ce moment là de retourner au travail, ils ont eu des assemblées, et ils ont finalement décidé de retourner.

Q Autrement dit la grève n'a pas été réglée mais elle a pris fin? Je crois que c'est exact ça, qu'elle n'a pas été réglée mais qu'elle a pris fin.

Q Vous avez parlé que vous même aviez préparé un projet. Voici qu'il a été produit ici à cette Cour, comme exhibit 49, ce qu'on nous a dit être le projet que vous aviez préparé, ce n'est certainement pas l'original. Voulez-vous prendre communication de la pièce 49, en l'examinant ou peut être la comparant, si vous avez des notes pour vous le permettre, voulez-vous nous dire si vous regardez notre pièce 49

comme répondant exactement au projet que vous auriez soumis aux autorités de la Wabasso, et nous dire s'il est exact? R Franchement j'ai ici un duplicata de cette pièce en question, et j'aimerais autant... j'ai quelques notes au crayon dessus, qui n'en forment pas partie.

Q En tout cas vous nous donnez un double?

R C'est peut être une copie.

Q Un double? R C'est ça.

Q Le projet dont vous avez parlé, c'est un double que vous nous donnez et que nous substituons, du consentement des intéressés, séance tenante, à ce que nous avons considéré comme votre projet d'entente, exhibit 49?½ R Oui, monsieur.

Par Me. LAJOIE:

Q Si je dois vous comprendre monsieur le maire, dans ce projet d'entente il y a deux parties, la partie de première part, étant la compagnie Wabasso Cotton Company et sa subsidiaire la St. Maurice Valley Cotton, et la partie de seconde part, ses employés, représentés par le comité industriel, ici représenté par le Comité de conciliation; ce comité industriel est composé de: Philippe Fortin, Alphonse Morrissette, René Robillard, Eugène Matton, Laurent Ouellette, formant ce qu'ils appellent un comité de conciliation?

R Ce sont les noms que l'Union m'a donné comme devant faire partie du comité qui verrait n'est-ce pas à cette entente.

Q Est-il à votre connaissance, suivant votre information, que tous ces noms là, étaient les membres du comité exécutif de l'Union Internationale?

R Je crois que tous en forment partie.

Q Quand on lit le 6ième paragraphe de cette entente: "Le comité Industriel représentant les employés pourra en aucun temps être représenté auprès des autorités de la compagnie par le Comité de Conciliation ci-dessus désigné et formé des employés de la compagnie.-" ce qui veut dire que le comité industriel composé de Fortin et autres, seraient représentés par le comité de Conciliation qui est composé des mêmes personnes, ces personnes portant deux noms: comité industriel et comité de Conciliation? R C'est bien ça, c'est le comité de conciliation qui pouvait en aucun temps rencontrer la compagnie et discuter avec elle des questions qui étaient de son essor.

Q Et ce qui voulait dire ~~que~~ le Comité de l'Union Internationale? R Ce comité là évidemment.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q Voulez-vous nous dire si vous avez soumis ce projet de votre rédaction aux autorités de la Wabasso à votre bureau ou au bureau de la Wayagamack?

R Franchement, je ne sais pas où, mais je sais que je l'ai soumis, certainement pas au bureau de la Wabasso, ça serait soit à mon bureau à moi même ou ailleurs, mais pas à la Wabasso.

Q Est-ce à Monsieur Whitehead que vous avez parlé?

R Est-ce à Monsieur Whitehead le père ou le fils, ou les deux ensemble, M. C.R.Whitehead ou M. William Whitehead, je ne peux pas dire, je sais que c'était l'un ou l'autre ou les deux.

Q Le projet, dans votre entrevue, le projet tel que nous l'avons devant nous a-t-il été discuté?

R Oui.

Q Entre vous et les autorités de la compagnie, représentée comme vous venez de le dire?

R Exactement, chacun des items a été lu, et j'ai discuté de ces clauses avec eux n'est-ce pas, et la réponse a été qu'ils ne pouvaient pas accepter.

Q Avez-vous le texte même de la réponse?

R Non,je ne crois pas avoir le texte de cette réponse,parce que d'autres tentatives de conciliation ont été faites. C'est pour ça que je ne voudrais pas assurer la réponse donnée, mais je sais qu'on ne l'a pas acceptée.

Q Si vous prenez avec moi le projet: Le paragraphe 1er vous dites: " Les heures de travail devront être en conformité aux lois actuellement en force et qui deviendront en force," - devons-nous comprendre que les autorités dd la Wabasso se sont refusées à cette clause là, faite comme ça? R Non.

Q Cette clause là seule aurait passée probablement?

R Oui, parce que cette clause là, elle réfère à la loi même.

Q Vous n'avez pas reçu d'objection à votre souvenir à cette clause là? R Non.

Q Si c'eut été tout le contrat ça passait?

R Ah oui.

Q Deuxième paragraphe: " L'âge des employés devra être en conformité aux lois actuellement en force et qui deviendront en force; " - je suppose qu'il n'y a pas du y avoir de la part des autorités de la compagnie est objections sérieuses à cette clause là?

R Non,aucune objection.

Q Les deux premières clauses auraient passées comme de la crême? R Oui.

Q La troisième: " Les salaires qui seront fixés le seront après enquête approfondie de toute la situation et cette enquête devra être complétée avant la fin du présent mois: " -Je voudrais bien savoir ce qu'on a dit, ce qu'on vous a dit?

R En autant que je me rappelle on a répondu à cette question de la même façon qu'on a répondu aux deux questions précédentes, c'est qu'ils payaient au moins le salaire minimum et plus que le salaire minimum, je crois que c'est la réponse donnée.

Q Il n'y avait pas lieu de reviser les salaires?

R Je ne voudrais pas dire ça.

Q La réponse es que la compagnie payait au moins le salaire minimum sinon davantage?

R Oui, c'est l'une ou l'autre des deux réponses qu'on m'a données.

Q Je crois que cette clause a été rejetée?

R Oui, la compagnie n'acceptait pas cette clause là.

Q La quatrième clause: "Les fêtes religieuses qui seront chomées seront celles qui le sont actuellement, et autres qui seront décrétées, comme devant être chomées, par l'autorité ecclésiastique: "- Je suppose que ça passé? R Non, voicipourquoi c'est qu'on m'a répondu qu'il y avait une entente avec le Cardinal Bégin, autrefois, relativement aux fêtes religieuses qui devaient être chomées. La compagnie a ajouté,n'est-ce pas, cette entente là était l'entente qu'elle suivant, et par conséquent qu'elle ne devait pas modifier cette entente, déjà acceptée.

Q Quoiqu'on puisse penser du bien fondé de cette réponse c'est leur réponse? R Oui, c'est leur réponse.

Q Ce n'est pas l'heure de porter un jugement, mais c'est leur réponse? R Oui monsieur.

Q Cinquième clause: "Les fêtes civiles qui seront chomées comprendront les fêtes civiles qui sont actuellement chomées, y compris la Fête du Travail"- Y a-t-il eu quelqu'objection à ça? R Non, d'ailleurs ça avait été accepté surtout au mois d'août l'an passé 1935.

Q Dans le fond c'est pas pour ça que les employés ont fait la grève,pour chomer la fête du travail?

R Non c'était agréé de part et d'autre.

Q 6ième clause: "Le Comité industriel" - il y a un comité industriel? R Oui.

Q " Représentant les employes" - Je ne sais pas mais c'est dit comme ça? R Le comité industriel était un comité considéré comme étant un comité formé d'employés de la compagnie au nombre d'une quarantaine...

Par le COMMISSAIRE: Quarante-cinq.

(suite de la réponse) Quarante-cinq, pris dans les différents département, et ceci formait ce qu'ils appellent le comité industriel.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q " Ce comité là pourra en aucun temps être représenté auprès des autorités de la compagnie par le Comité de conciliation ci-dessus designé"?

R C'est ça.

Q Est-ce que ça étédiscuté cette partie là de la

clause, que le comité industriel serait représenté par un diminutif de lui même , qui serait un comité de conciliation? R L'idée de ce comité pourrait se comprendre comme étant un ajouté je dirais au comité industriel formé.

Q Un exécutif du comité industriel? R Pas exactement. Il aurait pu être dans mon opinion le comité qui aurait pu suggéré aux autorités de la compagnie, des moyens d'améliorer la production, d'améliorer l'état général si on veut, de l'aider, en vue du bénifice plus considérable tant pour l'industrie que pour l'ouvrier, ce comité de conciliation aurait été un comité qui aurait pu discuter des plaintes, des difficultés des employés vis à vis le patron, au but d'arriver ~~xakkx~~ à regler cette situation qui pouvait de temps à autre survenir au detriment des deux, et afin d'empêcher des grèves.

Q Devons-nous comprendre que vous avez expliqué à ce moment aux autorités de la compagnie, ce qui était d'après vous la portée de cette clause?

R Je ne serais pas prêt à jurer que je l'ai bien expliqué, mais je suis prêt à jurer que j'ai tenté de le faire.

Q Etes-vous convaincu que vous avez été compris ou qu'on a refusé sans le comprendre?

R Je suis porté à croire qu'on a saisi ce que je voulais, d'un autre coté on n'a pas voulu l'accepter.

Q Ca été refusé? R Oui.

Q Ensuite de ça: " pour la discussion de toute question que le dit comité de conciliation jugera utile de discuter avec les autorités de la compagnie" - vous vous êtes clairement expliqué sur ce point?

R Oui.

Q "Advenant le cas où il devienne nécessaire de remplir une vacance au Comité de Conciliation, les autres membres du Comité de Conciliation nommeront, parmi les employés de la Compagnie, un remplaçant sur le Comité ainsi reconstitué, et ce Comité ainsi reconstitué formera alors le Comité de Conciliation".- La compagnie a-t-lle porté quelqu'attention à la façon dont le comité de conciliation pourrait se renouveler. Est-ce que cette partie de la clause a été discutée?

R Je crois que oui, je crois que la compagnie n'a pas compris ce que pouvait constituer ce comité formé de cinq personnes employées de la compagnie advenant qu'une vacance se fasse dans ce comité, soit par décès ou par cessation d'emploi, les autres membres pouvaient compléter ce comité de conciliation, et ce comité dans mon opinion devait être un comité qui aurait évité bien des difficultés, et je suis encore d'opinion que si nos divers usines avaient un double comité comme ceci, ça empêcherait les difficultés entre patrons et ouvriers.

Q Dois-je comprendre que quand vous avez soumis ce projet de règlement de la grève aux autorités de la Wabasso, que vous aviez obtenu des ouvriers l'assentiment qu'ils signeraient ce projet?

R Oui, l'Union acceptait ça.

Q L'union l'avait accepté? R Oui.

Q Dois-je comprendre, que par l'union ainsi que par vous même la paix, alors présente et future aurait été, autant que faire se peut, assurée, par la signature de ce projet? R Non, du coté de l'Union, elle était satisfaite, mais du coté de la compagnie, étant déjà avec le comité industriel qui avait été nommé, c'est le point, ça été la

source de la mésentente pour régler cette difficulté.

Q L'écrit en question, la pièce 49 est datée, Trois Rivières, 20 février 1936. Pouvons-nous prendre cette date comme étant la date où il a été rédigé?

R C'est exact.

Q Pouvons nous prendre ça comme la date où il a été soumis à la compagnie? R Oui, j'en suis certain.

Q Rédigé et préparé? R Ca été préparé dans l'après midi assez laborieusement, et ça été soumis à la compagnie le même jour, Je me rappelle maintenant que c'est monsieur William Whitehead a qui a été remis ce projet.

Q Le gérant actuel? R C'est ça.

Par Me LAJOIE:

Q Si je comprends bien ce comité de conciliation n'était composé uniquement que de membres de l'Union Internationale des Tisserands? R Oui, je suis certain, suivant l'information qu'on m'a donné, que ces cinq noms, sont cinq personnes appartenant à l'Union Internationale, et chacun d'eux est employé de la Wabasso.

Q Est-il à votre connaissance que chacun de ces employés là sont des officiers de l'Union?

R Non, je ne sais pas, je sais que M. Fortin est le président, je ne pourrais pas dire pour les autres.

Q Et l'objection de la compagnie était de traiter avec ce comité de conciliation, qui représentait seulement l'Union Internationale? C'est exact, la compagnie voulait traiter n'est-ce pas avec son comité industriel, et après que les employés seraient retournés à l'usine, toutes questions qui pourraient survenir entre les employés et la compagnie elle même.

Q Si je comprends bien, dans les nombreuses démarches que vous avez faite et tout le trouble que vous vous êtes donné, durant toute cette grève, la compagnie vous disait: que les employés reviennent à l'ouvrage, et nous sommes prets à discuter avec eux, et avec surtout le comité industriel, de tous nos employés at large? R C'est la position que prenait la compagnie, nous avons un comité industriel de nos employés, ils doivent d'abord retourner au travail, nous avons dans le passé rencontré ce comité industriel, et j'ai compris qu'elle était disposée à rencontrer le même comité industriel.

Et le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

(Page 815 follows)

Q. Vous travaillez dans quelléquipe ?

R. Maintenant, je travaille dans l'équipe "B" et au commencement, j'étais dans l'équipe "A".

Q. Sur quelle équipe travaillez-vous, aujourd'hui ?

R. C'est la même chose, de 7 à 3, une semaine et de 3 à 11, l'autre semaine.

Q. Il y a une alternance: une semaine, c'est de 7 à 3 et la semaine suivante, c'est de 3 à 11.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Actuellement, êtes-vous de 3 à 11 ? R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Quelle est votre salaire ?

R. Bien, j'ai deux payes, ici, vous pouvez le constater, je les ai apportées au local et on les a mises ici; moi-même, je les ai apportées et je les ai signées.

Q. Voulez-vous en attendant qu'on les retrace, pouvez-vous me dire quélle est le montant de votre dernière paye ? R. Après la grève ?

Q. Oui, après la grève, après le 2 mars.

R. C'est à dire, là j'ai changé d'ouvrage, là, ils m'ont donné un autre set de métiers.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous aviez ? trente métiers ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Depuis combien de jours, avez-vous trente métiers ?

R. Depuis deux jours avant la grève, cela se trouve à être le 16 février.

Q. Mademoiselle, on me remet actuellement deux enveloppes sur lesquelles je lis: "Léona Paris, Weave-Room, 1136 St-Prosper, trente métiers. Voulez-vous

prendre connaissance de ces enveloppes et me dire si c'est votre nom, si c'est votre écriture ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est vous qui avez écrit votre nom sur l'enveloppe ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ca, c'est la paye de quelle période ?

R. Depuis que j'ai trente métiers, ça fait à peu près, ça doit être dans le mois de février 1936.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Q. C'est avant la grève ? R. C'est avant la grève.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Q. Cettenveloppe, vous le constatez, porte le No 2284, $23.15 et 84 heures.

Q. Je comprends que 2284 c'est le No matricule.

Réponse: Oui. Je ne vous assure pas que c'est dans le mois de février.

Q. Le Numéro, c'est le Numéro que l'on vous a donné avant de vous donner votre paye et que vous avez changé contre votre paye ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est tout ce que l'on met sur l'enveloppe, le no, le montant et les heures ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. De la façon indiquée sur l'enveloppe ? R.-Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous aviez dans ce temps-là trente métiers ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous a ez ici, une autre enveloppe où nous lisons: "Léona Paris, weave-room", 1136 St-Prosper, 33 métiers"; c'est de votre main cela ? Oui Monsieur.

Q. Sur l'autre côté de l'enveloppe, le no est 2313, le montant $22.40 et 84 heures encore ? R. C'est ça.

Q. Quand au changement de no, je comprends que vous n'avez pas deux fois le même no ?

R. C'est toujours un no différent.

Q. Alors, cette paye de $22.40 était-elle antérieure ou postérieure à l'autre ? était-elle avant ou après celle de $23.15 ? .... R. ......

Q. Les deux enveloppes sont d'avant la grève ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Alors, celle de $22.40 est-elle antérieure de celle de $23.15 ? R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Les deux enveloppes portent le même nombre d'heures? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Le montant varie, cela dépend de la production ?

R. Cela dépend, quand on a plus de moulins, on est payé moins.

Q. Voulez-vous produire ces deux enveloppes comme pièce 63. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous venez de dire Mademoiselle que quand vous avez plus de métiers, celà paye moins, est-ce que vous avez moins d'ouvrage ?

R. On est supposé en faire plus, on est supposé fournir la même chose.

Q. C'est plus dur de contrôler 33 métiers que 30 ?

R. C'est-à-dire qu'on nous en donne 30 parce que l'on est pas capable d'en ronner plus.

Q. C'est-à-dire qu'ils vous en donnent tant par

employé, tant qu'un employé peut en faire fonctionner ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous n'avez pas à vous plaindre, l'employé en a à sa force ? R. Certainement.

Q. Depuis combien de temps êtes-vous tisserande ?

R. Depuis quinze ans.

Q. Avez-vous travaillé longtemps sur ces métiers "Draper" ? R. Depuis que je suis transferrée, depuis le mois de mai.

Q. Depuis le mois de mai 1935 ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avant cela, sur quel métier, travailliez-vous ?

R. Avant cela, j'étais passeuse de brins sur les "Drapers", avant cela je travaillais sur les métiers anglais.

Q. Ca remonte à quel temps cela les métiers anglais ?

R. Il y a eu un an au mois de février.

Q. Avez-vous été longtemps sur ces métiers-là ?

R. Sur les métiers anglais, avant, j'ai travaillé dessus à venir jusqu'à février l'an dernier.

Q. Combien de métiers aviez-vous ?

R. J'en avais 3, 4, 6 et 8.

Q. Est-ce plus fatiguant d'en faire fonctionner 8 que 3 ? R. Ca dépend de l'ouvrage que l'on a dessus.

Q. Au point de vue du travail ?

R C'est plus fatiguant.

Q. Est-ce que c'est plus payant sur 3 que 8 ?

R. Oui.

Q. C'est-à-dire que c'était plus payant 3 que 8 ?

R. Oui, certainement.

Q. C'est-à-dire que ça paye plus, que vous avez plus de pick ? R. Oui, et deux c'est encore plus payant que trois.

Q. Alors vous dites que le tarif est plus élevé pour deux que pour trois ? R. Oui.

Q. Et ainsi de suite, en baissant ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Maintenant, je suppose que vous travaillez sur des métiers à coton; il y a un prix de fixer pour tant de picks de ce coton sur un métier ? R. Oui Monsieur, seulement on ne ronne jamais qu'un seul métier.

Q. Si vous en avez deux, deux au même coton, le prix change quand au nombre de picks ? R. Oui Monsieur.

R. Et pour trois, c'est la même chose ? R. C'est ça.

Q. Alors, celui qui fait fonctionner 8 machines ne fait autant d'argent que celui qui n'en fait fonctionner qu'une seule ? R. Oui, moins.

Q. Parce que le prix est trop réduit ?

R. Ca doit dépendre de cela, parce que l'on a moins de verges.

Q. Vous dites que vous avez moins de verges ?

R. Sur 8 métiers, on sort plus de coton, mais cela paye moins.

Q. Je vois par vos enveloppes que vous avez eu dans une quinzaine, une paye de $23.15 et l'autre de $22.40;

cela fait $11.00 pour une semaine et ça ne fait pas tout à fait $12.00 pour l'autre ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q.- Alors la semaine de 48 heures, ça fait $11.00, et un peu plus que $11.00 pour une semaine de 48 heures ? Me Lajoie: C'est 42 heures, M.Beauregard.

Q. Pour 42 heures d'ouvrage, vous avez $11.00 ?

R. Sur l'heure du midi, notre machine ronne.

Q. Même quand vous n'êtes pas là ?

R. Ils mettent les spares à notre place.

Q. Vous avez des remplaçants, des substituts ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous le bénéfice de ce qui se fait durant cette heure là ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous avez le bénéfice de ce qui est fait par votre remplaçant durant l'heure du midi ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Seulement la Compagnie entre à votre nom ces 7 heures d'ouvrage tandis que la machine en travaille 8 et ils vous payent pour ce que la machine a produit ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Il y a un cadran qui enregistre les picks ?

R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Y a-t-il longtemps qu'il y a un cadran là ?

R. Depuis que les "Drapers" sont là.

Q. Sur les machines anglaises, est-ce qu'il y avait des cadrans. R. Pas dans mon temps, maintenant ils en ont.

Q.

Q. Depuis combien de temps en ont-ils ?

R. Depuis le printemps derniers, 1935 .

Q. Avant, comment mesuriez-vous votre travail ?

R. Ca allait à la pièce de coton.

Q. On prend la pièce faite?

R. On avait tant par 60 verges.

Q. C'était mesuré, où ?

R. Il y avait des marques.

Q. Mais dans ce temps-là, vous marchiez deux équipes?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Alors, comment vous arrangiez-vous entre travailleurs de jour et de nuit sur le même métier ? Est-ce que le travailleur de nuit continuait le mêm rouleau ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Il continuait sur le même rouleau ? R. Oui Monsieur

Q. Comment partageait-ilscela pour la paye ?

R. Ils divisaient la paye en deux.

Q. Sans savoir si l'un travaillait plus que l'autre ?

R. Oui; si l'on ne travaillait pas la nuit, la paye était divisée pareille.

Q. C'est-à-dire qu'une personne travailla-it pour une autre personne, à moins que les deux avaient la même valeur de rendement.

R. Oui; celà allait bien quand on frappait une bonne personne, mais quand c'en était d'autre, on travaillait pour les deux.

Q. C'était la façon dont la compagnie enregistrait le travail ? R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous déjà gagné plus cher, Mademoiselle, je vois que vous faites actuellement $11.00 pour 42 heures, avez-vous fait plus que cela, déjà ?

R. Non, c'est à peu près la même chose.

Q. C'est votre meilleur rendement sur le "Draper" ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Sur les machines anglaises, avez-vous fait beaucoup mieux que cela ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous avez retiré combien, déjà ?

R. Ma plus grosse paye, dans quinze jours, si je me rappelle bien, j'ai fait $42.00, et j'ai fait cela une fois.

Q. Ca, c'est une exception. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Quelle a pu être votre moyenne de paye syr les machines anglaises ? R. Ca variait, j'en ai fait de toutes sortes, de 20.00, 27.00 et 28.00 par quinze jours, j'ai fait jusqu'à 30.00.

Q. Combien travailliez-vous d'heures par semaine, dans ce temps-là, Mademoiselle ?

R. On était supposé faire la journée de 10 heures; 55 heures par semaine.

Q. Dans ce temps-là, vous faisiez 52 heures.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Pour bombien de machines ?

R. De trois à huit machines; la plupart du temps, nous en avions six ou huit.

Q. Mademoiselle Paris, vous avez entendu ce matin, le témoignage de M.Carle au sujet de certaines

personnes qui seraient allées le voir et se plaindre à lui; êtes-vous déjà allée vous plaindre à lui, Mademoiselle, vous ?

R. Oui Monsieur, j'y suis allée.

Q. Est-ce- qu'il y a longtemps ?

R. C'est au mois d'avril, à la fin d'avril, l'an dernier.

Q. De quoi aviez-vous été lui parler.

R. Je suis allée lui parler sur les conditions du travail, sur les salaires et pour lui demander s'il ne pouvait pas ameliorer notre sort; il a dit qu'il s'occuperait de notre situation, mais nous n'en avons jamais entendu parler.

Q. Avez-vous parlé du salaire minimum ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous êtes-vous plaint que le salaire n'était pas celui prévu par la loi ?

R. J'ai dit que dans le temps nous avions moins de métiers, nous retirions plus, et il a répondu, pour la quantité de travail que l'on avait, qu'on devrait retirer beaucoup plus que cela .

Q. Etes-vous allée là seule ?

R. Avec Mademoiselle Laquerre.

Q... A part de ces remarques sur le salaire et sur le rendement des 8 ou des 3 machines, avez-vous parlé d'autres choses ?

R. Oui, pour l'heure du diner, dans le temps, on n'en avait pas.

Q. Comment cela se passait-il dans ce temps-là ?

R. On mangeait si l'on pouvait et si l'on ne pouvait pas, on ne mangeait pas et l'on avait pas le droit d'arrêter la machine.

Q. Ca duré durant combien de temps cela, l'autre régime ?

R. Depuis qu'ils nous ont mis sur l'équipe de huit heures, nous avons embarqués sur l'équipe de huit heures, au mois de mars ou à la fin de février 1935

Q. En tout cas, quand vous n'étiez pas sur l'équipe de huit heures, vous n'aviez pas le temps d'aller diner ?

R. On n'avait pas d'heures pour diner; on faisait huit heures.

Q. Ca duré combien de temps cela ?

R. Je ne peux pas dire au juste.

Q. Vous apportiez vous quelque chose à manger ?

R. Oui, on apportait un lunch.

Q. Où mettiez-vous cela ?

R. Où on le pouvait.

Q. Est-ce que vous n'aviez pas une place spéciale pour metrre votre lunch ? R. Non.

Q. Où mettiez-vous cela ?

R. Par terre, en dessous des métiers, dans un sac.

Q. Alors,que vous vouliez manger, c'était à n'importe quelle heure ?

R. On en profitait quand l'ouvrage allait bien.

Q. Cela n'esiste plus,aujourd'hui, vous avez le

temps d'aller manger ?

R. On a une heure.

Q. Depuis quand est-ce que c'est changé cela ?

R. C'est comme je vous l'ai dit, je ne me rappelle pas de la date que cela est commencé. Je crois que c'est quand l'equipe a commencé de 7 heures à 3 heures, quand on a mis deux équipes de 7 à 3 au lieu de 8 à 4, je crois que c'est à ce moment là, si je me rappelle bien.

M. le COMMISSAIRE :

Q. Est-ce après la grève ?

Me LAJOIE: C'est avant la grève. La grève date du 28 d' août et les changements ont été effectués avant.par

Me BEAUREGARD:

Q. Mademoiselle Paris, avez-vous à un endroit, se trouve-t-il un endroit approprie pour mettre les vâtements de rues pour les femmes.

R. Nous autres, on arrive avec un costume de travail dans la manufacture, on accroche notre coat sur des crochets.

Q. C'est-à-dire que vous vous rendez à l'usine, en habit de travail, en tablier?

R. Un smock : c'est un petit costume.

Q. Que vous achetez au moulin. R. Oui.

Q. Toutes les jeunes filles qui travaillent au moulin en ont un ? R. Je Suppose.

Q. Et arrivent au travail avec ce smock ?

étaient plus élevés beaucoup; nou faisions dix heures d'ouvrage et sur certains ouvrages, nous faisions trente et trente-huit piastres avec ce travail sur la soie rayon, la soie artificielle.

Q. Vous avez déjà travaillé sur la soie artificielle, ici ? R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Vous n'êtes pa s capable de donner des précisions sur le salaire que vous aviez en 1929 et en 1930 ?

R. Cela devait varier aux alentours de $30.00;et-à je ne peux pas préciser.

Q. Vous évaluez votre salaire dans ce temps-là aux alentours de $30.00 ?

R. Cela pouvait être moins ou plus.

Q. C'est comme moyenne. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce qu'il arrivait qu'il y avait des retenues de faites sur le salaire ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. A quel sujet ?

R. Quand nous avons 30 machines à surveiller, on ne peut pas surveiller ces machines-là de 1ère classe.

Q. Ca prend de la place pour 30 machines ?

R. Nous allons d'un bout à l'autre de la manufacture.

Q. Alors, qu'est-ce qui arrive ?

R. Il arrive que l'on fait des manques, que l'on fait du mauvais coton; on est supposées en être tenues responsables.

Q. Comme question de fait, est-ce que l'on vous en tien- responsables ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q.

Q. Qu'est-ce qu'il arrive, je suppose que vous avez du mauvais coton, est-ce que l'on s'en aperçoit ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ils vous rapportent une pièce de coton, et vous disent qu'il y a des manques.

R. Ils viennent nous chercher, nous amènent à la table et ils font passer la pièce de coton de nouveau et là on voit les manques qui se sont faites et ils nous ôtent notre argent.

Q. Les dommages sont appréciés à la table ?

R. Oui monsieur; nous n'allons pas toujours à la table, des fois, ils nous en ôtent et on ne l'a pas vu.

Q. Vous n'avez pas eu de représentations sur le mauvais coton et ils vous enlèvent votre argent?

R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que c'est de votre faute ?

R. Non, on se dévoue tellement pour faire notre ouvrage.

Q. S'il arrive, pendant que vous allez dîner que le *spare* file du mauvais coton, qui est-ce qui paye pour le mauvais coton ?

R. C'est nous autres.

Q. C'est la personne qui est allée dîner dont le moulin a fait du mauvais coton qui paye pour le mauvais coton. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Dites donc, Mademoiselle, savez-vous dans quelles conditions sont les cabinets d'aisance dans le bas du

moulin ? R. Non Monsieur, je ne peux pas vous donner des explications, moi je peux vous donner des explications dans la weave-room.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous avez à dire à ce sujet ?

R. Les salles de toilette, j'aurais à dire qu'il y a certains messieurs qui prennent la permission d'aller dans le côté des dames.

Q. C'est-à-dire que les salles de toilette des Dames sont adossées à ceux des hommes ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Placées dos à dos, 3 ou 4 pour les femmes et 3 ou 4 pour les hommes ?, R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Mais il y a une entrée distincte pour les deux ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ca n'a pas toujours été de même ?

R. Dans la weave-room, c'est cela.

Q. Ce que vous rapportez, vous êtes obligée de surveiller le cabinet des dames afin d'envoyer les hommes qui ne savent pas vivre ? R. Absolument.

Q. Vous vous êtes-vous plainte de cela ?

R. Non, parce que toutes les plaintes ça ne rapportent pas et ça ne profitent pas, et ceux que nous vous faites n'ont eu~~e~~ aucun résultat.

Q. Si je comprends bien, il n'y avait pas de porte au cabinet d'aisance sur la batisse ?

R. Dans le cabinet ou j'ai surpris le Monsieur, il y avait une porte dans le dernier.

Q. Depuis combien de temps qu'il y a des portes ?

R. Si je me rappelle bien, c'est en 1935.

Q. C'est une amélioration ? R. Oui.

Q. Il n'y a pas de siège non plus ?

R. Non il n'y en a jamais eu.

Q. Il y a longtemps que ces couverts-là sont enlevés?

R. Depuis que je travaille là,il n'y a jamais eu de couverts.

Q. Et les portes ont été enlevées l'an dernier ?

R. Oui Monsieur,

Q. Savez-vous pourquoi, ils ont enlevé cela ?

R. Je me le demande, je ne le sais pas.

Q. Savez-vous si tous les employés dans votre département, y font le même travail, ont le même tarif de salaire ?

R. Nous n'avons pas tous le même tarif sur le même salaire, C'est parge qu'ils nous ont dit que les hommes sont supposés avoir plus cher.

Q. Ils vous ont dit que les hommes étaient supposés avoir plus cher que les femmes, même quand vous faites le même ouvrage. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Même quand ils sont payés à la pièce.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est-à-dire que le prix à la pièce est plus élevé pour un homme que pour une femme ?

R. Dans la weave-room, c'est cela.

Q. Pour le même rendement de travail ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est-à-dire que pour mille picks sur un moulin, comme celui que vous avez dit tout à l'heure, une homme a plus cher que vous.

R. Il peut avoir 10% plus cher.

Q. Alors, quel que soit le travail, c'est la même chose dans tous les cas.

R. Oui Monsieur.

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CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. Vous êtes employée à la Compagnie depuis 15 ans.?

R. Oui.

Q. Les métiers qui étaient en usage dans la Compagnie durant vos premières années, c'étaient des métiers anglais. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Etaient-ils beaucoup moins perfectionnés que les métiers sur lesquels vous travaillez maintenant? R. Ils allaient moins vite.

Q. Ils étaient moins perfectionnés? R. C'est entendu.

Q. C'était plus difficile de travailler sur ces métiers là, que sur ceux que vous avez maintenant? R. La différence, c'est qu'il fallait changer la navette.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Ils n'avaient pas de batterie? R. Non Monsieur.

Q. C'est ça la différence, Maintenant, pas de batterie?

R. Non.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. La navette se change automatiquement; avant vous la changiez par manutantion à la main? R. Ca prenait beaucoup plus de temps.

Q. Ca prenait beaucoup plus de votre temps? R. Naturellement, on n'aurait pas runné trente-trois métiers.

Q. Maintenant, quand vous faites des payes de $27.00 et $26. combien travaillez vous d'heures par semaine? R. Dans le temps, nous faisions 10 heures par jour.

Q. Cinquante-cinq heures par semaine, actuellement, vous en faites en 42? R. J'en ai fait cinquante-cinq, j'ai fait $19.00, $20.00, $22.00, à dix heures d'ouvrage par jour.

Q. Quand vous aviez M. Carle au sujet de la plinte que vous avez faite, a quel endroit était-ce? R. Au bureau de placement.

Q. A Trois-Rivières, vous êtes allée le voir là?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que vous avez eu une carte à remplir, est-ce qu'il vous a demandé de mettre votre plint/e par écrit?

R. Non monsieur.

Q. Maintenant, depuis de quart, n'avez-vous travaillé que quarante-deux heures p r semaine. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Quand à l'homme que vous avez vu, il s'e st trompé de cabinet, qui est allé chez les dames, est-ce que c'est arrivé souvent, ou si c'est un cas bien distinct? R. C'est une chose assez curieuse.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous avez vu? R. Je suis pas foreman des cabinets.

Q. C'est justement parce que vous n'êtes pas foreman que vous pouvez dire que c'est un cas qui arrive souvent? R. Je l'ai vu une fois, certain. Je suis allé pour entrer dans le cabinet, la porte était fermée, j'ai attendu mon tour, c'est un homme qui est sorti.

Q. C'était assez que vous ayiez vu sortir un homme du cabinet pour dames? R. Ca devrait être assez.

Q. C'est une fois de trop? R. Oui, une erreur.

Q. Est-ce que vous faites un bon salaire? R. Un bon salaire, je pourrais faire plus.

Q. Votre père travaille-t-il lui aussi? R. Mon père est mort.

Q. Vous êtes deux soeurs qui travaillez à la Wabasso?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Votre mère vit-elle? R. Non elle ne vit pas.

Q. Vous êtes en pension toutes les deux? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous prenez vos repas à l'ouvrage? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Si vous vouliez, vous pourriez les prendre en dehors?

R. Si on démenageaient.

Q. Si vous le vouliez, vous avez droit de sortir, pourquoi les

prenez vous sur l'ouvrage? R. Nous n'avons pas le temps d'aller chez-nous.

Q. Vous demeurez où? R. Sur la rue St-Prosper.

Q. Combien de minutes de marche de l'usine à la rue St-Prosper, c'est vis à vis le milieu de la cour du garage ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que je suis généreux quand je dis qu'en moins de dix minutes, vous pouvez vous rendre à l'usine? R. Vous n'êtes pas généreux, vous pouvez dire douze minutes.

Q. Douze minutes pour aller et douze minutes pour revenir, et vous avez une heure pour vos repas? R. Oui, il faut cinq minutes pour que les machines soient activées.

Q. Les cabinets de dames et les cabinets des messieurs sont séparés par un mur de brique? R. Ils devraient, je n'ai jamais examiné celà.

Q. Pour pénétrer dans le cabinet de toilette des dames, il y a une entrée. Les cabinets ne sont pas à la vue directe du reste de la salle. Les cabinets sont disposés de façon, à ce que les cabinets particuliers sont proches de l'entrée de la salle des cabinets. Dans le cabinet dont je vous parle, l'entrée est devant la salle? R. Pour aller au cabinet particulier, il y a deux cabinets, deux sections. L'entrée des cabinets particuliers est proche de l'entrée des communications de la salle des cabinets?

Q. Vous faites une équerre, vous donnez assez à gauche pour aller dans les cabinets? R. Je vous le dis, celui-là, il n'y en a pas.

Q. Vous êtes dans quel département? R. Weave Room, en arrière.

Q. Au rez-de-chaussée? R. En haut.

Q. Sur quel plancher, le ler, le 2ème? R. le weave-room, comporte le soubassement, le ler plancher.

Q. A l'arrière de la Bâtisse? R. Oui.

MELLE YVONNE LAQUERRE, est assermentée,

INTERROGEE PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Mademoiselle Laquerre, travaillez-vous au moulin Wabasso?

R. J'ai été remerciée de mes services le 4 octobre, 1935.

Q. Quelle personne vous a donné votre avis.?

R. M. Tootell, M. Hagger, et M. Fortier.

Q. Ce sont ces trois personnes là qui vous ont dit que vous étiez remerciée de vos services? R. Ils étaient tous les trois à l'office et c'est M. Tootell qui me l'a dit.

Q. Vous étiez dans quel département? R. Weave-room.

Q. Quel plancher? R. 2ème plancher.

Q. Vous étiez tisserand à ce moment là? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Combien de temps travailliez-vous au moulin? R. Huit ans et demi.

Q. Depuis combien de temps comme tisserand? J'ai été deux mois et demi à l'apprentissage, j'ai chargé les weaves.

Q. Combien de machines aviez-vous sous votre contrôle?

R. 33 machines.

Q. Vous aviez dix moulins anglais et vous aviez trente-trois drapers? R. Dix moulins anglais et 33 drapers avant d'arriver.

Q. Comment vous faisiez-vous sur les moulins anglais et sur les drapers? R. Si je me rappelle bien, sur les moulins anglais, je retirais, 28.30.

R. Par quinzaine et sur le drapage, de $26.00 à $28.00.

Q. Comment vous a-t-on préparé les heures de travail entre les deux enveloppes? R. Sur la machine anglaise, je travaillais dix heures par jour quand j'ai été transferré sur le drapage, j'étais sur le quart de 8 heures par jour.

Q. Avez-vous gardé des notes de vos salaires?

R. Pas directement gardé des notes. Lorsque nous avons rencontré M. le maire, l'automne dernier, M. Hagger lui-même m'a donné un record de ma paye.

Q. Le record de votre salaire a été donné par votre patron au maire. R. Pas directement ~~M.Hagger~~ le patron, mais M. Hagger, assistant de M. Whitehead.

Q. Vous me remettez deux documents: l'un intitulé: "Record of work of Miss Yvonne Laquerre, January 5th 1935, 81 hours, P.W." ça veut dire quoi: R. Ce n'est pas écrit.

Q. Piece work, $22.65 et l'autre document que vous me soumettez: "Record of bad work of Miss Yvonne Laquerre, Feb.2, 1935, $27.50" Les deux vous ont été donnés par M.?

R. Hagger.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. Quand celà? R. Si je me rappelle bien, c'est en novembre, à l'automne de 1935.

ME BEAUREGARD.

Q. Vous êtes allée voir le Maire des Trois-Rivières?

R. Le Comité exécutif a rencontré M. Whitehead et M. le maire.

Q. Il a été question de vous? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous étiez renvoyée à ce moment là? R. Oui Monsieur, C'est pour cette raison qu'on l'avait rencontré.

Q. C'est le motif de la démarche? R. Oui.

Q. Vous avez présenté deux pièces justificatives? R. Oui.

Q.

Q. Celle que je tiens actuellement et que nous allons produire comme pièce 64, vous dites a été remise en votre présence par M. Hagger à M. le Maire? R. A M. Labrie,

Q. M. Labrie, le secrétaire du comité?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ceci représente apparemment votre salaire du 5 janvier 1935 jusqu'au 12 octobre 1936? R. Oui Monsieur.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE.

Q. Quelle est la somme globale?

ME BEAUREGARD: Ce n'est pas additionné.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Ca dépend du salaire.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Le 12 octobre, c'est le moment où vous avez été renvoyée?

R. Le 4 octobre.

Q. Vous avez touché votre salaire le 12?

R. Touché mon salaire après, je suppose, parce qu'ils l'ont fait checker durant ce temps là.

Q. A la droite de cette feuille là, c'est marqué 50 cents bad work, 20 cents bad work, qu'est-ce que c'est?

R. C'est ldargent qu'ils nous font perdre quand nous faisons du méchant coton.

Q. Quand vous fiates du méchant coton?

R. Quand nous faisons du méchant coton.

Q. Vous aviez combien de moulin?

R. 33 machines.

Q. Il y avait un défaut de draper qui faisait faire du mauvais coton? R. Je me demande comment ça se fait, je perdais des dix cents, j'ai été six semaines sans aller à la table.

Q. Après que votre maitre a fait l'inspection, il vous a montré la feuille qui indiquait que le coton n'était pas bon.

R. Pas bon.

Q. Vous avez eu des retênues sans aucune explications vous soit données? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Maintenant Mademoiselle vous venez de me remettre également un autre document?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Qui vous concerne?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Celle là est intitulée: Record of bad work by Miss Yvonne Laquerre.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Voulez vous produire ce document là comme pièce 65.? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Melle laquerre, saves-vou pourquoi vous avez été renvoyée de l'usine? R. C'est entendu, parce que je faisais partie de l'organisation. Ils m'ont dit que c'est à cause que j'avais fait un mouleau de méchant coton, la chose n'était pas claire, ce n'était pas de ma faute.

Q. Quelle raison vous a-t-on donnée.?

R. Ils m'ont dit que c'était cause que j'avais fait un rouleau de méchant coton.

Q. Qui a dit celà? R. M. Tootell.

Q. M. Tootell, c'est au moment même que vous avez été renvoyée? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Il a dit que vous aviez fait un rouleau de mauvais côton? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Veniez-vous de la faire ce rouleau là?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'était tout récent? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce qu'il vous a été distrait ce rouleau là, il doit être payé pareil comme tous les autres. Alors, il vous a dit devant les autres, c'était pour

ça qu'ils vous renvoyaient? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Parce que vous aviez fait un rouleau? C'est gros un rouleau Mademoiselle?

R. Ca dépend de la grosseur du rouleau, il y a toutes sortes de grosseurs.

Q. A cause de ce rouleau là, vous été renvoyée à ce moment là? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. D'après vous, ce n'est pas pour celà?

R. Non Monsieur.

Q. C'est pourquoi d'après vous? R. Parce que je faisais partie de l'organisation.

Q. Dites moi donc sur quoi vous vous basez pour dire que c'est à cause de celà? R. Nous étions trois employées sur la même chose. Le coton est méchant tout le long bobine. Il y a seulement moi qui a été remerciée de mes services.

Q. La mauvaise pièce de coton a été manufacturée par trois personnes? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Et vous êtes la seule qui a été renvoyée à cause de cette condition du coton? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Etiez-vous également la seule qui vous occupiez d'organisation de ces trois personnes là?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous étiez la seule des trois personnes qui s'occupaient de l'organisation? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce la première fois que vous vous êtes apperçue de travailler à l'organisation vous attirait le mécontentement du patron? R; Oui Monsieur, au printemps, au commencement d'avril, M. Tostell est venu me trouver me disant que j'étais une des meilleures tisseuse de la weave room, qu'il était très satisfait de mon ouvrage. J'ai travaillé pour M. Lepage, il m'a

trouvée très satisfaisante, M. Turcotte aussi.

Q. Ca faisait combien de temps que vousétiez là?

R. Sur le drapage?

Q. A l'emploi, à l'usine?

R. Huit ans et demi.

Q. Est-ce qu'on vous a déjà reproché d'une façon particulière que votre fabrication du coton n'était pas très bonne, ou de ne pas connaitre votre métier?

R. Non Monsieur.

Q. C'est la première fois que celà est arrivé?

R. Depuis l'organisation, j'ai été accusée plusieurs fois.

Q. Par qui? R. Par mon contremaître.

Q. Son nom? R. Fortier.

Q. Qu'est-ce qu'il vous a dit M. Fortier?

R. La première fois, j'avais invité des filles à parcourir à la fête du travail.

Q. Les filles qui faisaient partie de la Wabasso?

R. Les filles qui faisaient partie de la Wabasso. Monsieur Fortier m'a dit que c'était M. Whitehead qui me payait. J'ai dit: "C'est très bien M.Fortier, j'ai pas fait ça durant mon heure de travail, je l'ai fait durant mon heure de repos".

Q. C'est une des circonstances, est-ce qu'il y en a d'autres circonstances où il a été question de votre travail de l'association? R. Après, peut-être cinq ou six semaines que je n'avais pas été le voir pour du méchant coton, la première fois que je suis allée, il a appelé le grand contremaître pour lui montrer mon coton.

Q. C'est qui celà? M.Tootell? M. Tootell.

Q. Il a montré votre coton pour l'amour de deux man-

quements? R. Il a dit que je n'étais pas capable de ruiner mes machines. J'ai dit: "Monsieur Fortier, quand je suis à l'autre bout de la shop, je ne puis pas voir ce qui se passe dans ce bout-ci". Je ne sais pas si c'est moi ou la spare qui avait fait celà durant l'heure du midi, quand je suis allé diner.

Q. Pendant les diners, vos métiers marchent sur le contrôle d'une spare? R. d'une spare.

Q. Et l'ouvrage bon ou mauvais de la spare est porté à votre crédit ou à votre débit?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce qu'il arrive souvent que du mauvais coton soit fait par la spare? R. Il m'en voulait tellement que c'était toujours moi qui était la cause du méchant coton.

Q. Y a t'il d'autres circonstances que vous avez pu juger de l'état d'esprit de vos patrons?

R. Non, avant celà, il n'y a jamais eu d'autres circonstances.

Q. Avez-vous été avec d'autres personnes, chez M. le Maire pour parler du règlement de la grève?

R. Pas à ma connaissance. Pour règler la grève?

Q. Oui, pendant la grève, êtes vous allée chez le Maire? R. Non Monsieur, pendant la grève je ne suis pas allée chez le Maire.

Q. Avant la grève? R. Oui, Monsieur, j'y suis allée.

Q. Vers le milieu du mois de novembre?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous rencontré M. Hagger?là?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce qu'il vous a parlé Monsieur Hagger? Est-ce qu'il a parlé de vous devant le Maire.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Qu'est-ce qu'il a dit? R. Je ne me rappelle pas toutes les choses qu'il a dit, qu'il m'avait renvoyée à cause du méchant coton.

Q. Etes-vous allée chez M. Carle?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. L'inspecteur Provincial? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vers quel temps, savez-vous? R. Vers la fin d'avril.

Q. 1935? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Pourquoi êtes-vous allée là? R. Pour cause de l'ouvrage, on n'avait beaucoup trop de machines et aussi pour le salaire.

Q. Vous êtes allée vous plaindre chez M. Carle?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Exposer vos griefs? R. .....

Q. Vos machines, vous êtes mal payée?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que ça eu un résultat cette visite là?

R. Du tout Monsieur.

Q. Vous ne vous êtes pas plein sur la loi du salaire minimum? R. On trouvait trop d'ouvrages pour obtenir seulement, 21 cents de l'heure, 17 cents de l'heure.

Q. Vous travaillez dans le temps, sur trente-deux moulins? R. 32 et 33.

Q. Avez vous fait plus d'argent avant qu'on vous renvoie? R. Ah oui, quand j'ai commencé à travailler, j'ai retiré jusqu'à $45.00 par 15 jours.

Q.

Q. Ca remonte vers quel temps? ça fait huit ans, moins trois ans, ça fait cinq ans.

R. Je travaillais douze heures par jour dans ce temps-là.

Q. Vous étiez payée $45.00 par quinzaine?

R. Des fois un peu moins.

Q. Sur les moulins anglais? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous travaillé déjà avec moins que 33 drapers?

R. Non Monsieur, c'est-à-dire, 32, une petite secousse 32.

Q. 32 et trente-trois? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce fatiguant ce travail là?

R. Oui Monsieur, très fatiguant, j'ai été obligée de loafer l'été dernier par rapport à celà.

Q. Pour votre santé? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vers quel temps avez-vous pris congé?

R. J'ai pris congé vers la fin du mois de juin jusqu'au 5 août.

Q. Maintenant, avez-vous fait des démarches pour aller travailler au moulin.? R. Après que j'été renvoyée, oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous avez fait des démarches auprès de qui?

R. Quand nous avons rencontré Monsieur le Maire, M. Hagger et M. Tootell. M. Whitehead le gérant de la Compagnie m'a dit d'aller le revoir, il espérait me trouver une autre place. Je suis allée, il a dit aussitôt qu'il aurait une place, il me ferait demander, car le contremaître de la weave room ne voulait pas me reprendre.

Q. C'est-à-dire, Monsieur Tootell?

ME LAJOIE: M. Fortier?

ME BEAUREGARD:

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Est-ce que M. Whitehead vous a procuré cet autre emploi ailleurs? R. Il a pris beaucoup de filles à la bleachery.

Q. Vous dites que M. Whitehead a pris un nombre de nouvelles employées? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Mais vous ne vous a pas reprise?

R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Je comprends que vous êtes dans le Comité exécutif de l'Union? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous êtes vice-présidente de l'Union?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Les témoins précédents ont parlé de l'état du moulin, ont parlé des comodités. Je comprends que les ouvrières travaillent en smock, en habit de travail?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Que fait-on des habits de la rue quand on arrive au moulin.? R. Nous les mettons sur des crochets, des barres de fer. Nous accrochons notre linge sur des crochets.

Q. Dans le département ou vous travailliez, est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup de comodité pour que les hommes changent d'habit? R. Non Monsieur, pas à ma connaissance.

Q. Alors, les employés changent d'habit dans le moulin?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Non seulement, leur pardessus, mais changent complètement d'habit? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ils se mettent en souvêtement? R. Oui Monsieur, pour mettre leur habit de travail.

Q. Il n'y a pas de chambre de toilette pour celà? rien de prévu pour celà? R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous fait des représentations à quelqu'un, déjà, pour que cet état de chose soit amélioré?

R. Si je me rappelle bien, nous avons dit à M. Carle que les hommes se deshabillaient devant nous, que ce n'était pas juste que les hommes se mettent en souvêtement devant nous. On a eu aucun résultat.

Q. Dans le département vous travailliez, quelle était la condition des cabinets de toilette?

R. Auparavant nous avions des portes, maintenant, je ne sais pas pour quelle raison qu'ils ont enlevé ces portes. Les toilettes ne sont pas toujours en ordre, ne sont pas toujours propres.

Q. Savez-vous quand les portes ont été supprimées?

R. Je crois que c'est au printemps.

Q. Acutellement, sont-ce de nouvelles salles de toilette qui ont été rebaties? R. Oui Monsieur, des nouvelles salles.

Q. Ces salles là ont été refaites complètement?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Les cabinets d'aisance, les sièges des cabinets d'aisance ne sont pas neufs? R. Non Monsieur, ils ont refait les planchers en ciment.

Q. Ils ont refait les planchers et le demi-murs des salles de toilette? R. Oui Monsieur.

CONTRE-INTERROGEE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. Avez-vous travaillé au moulin en plusieurs circonstances différentes ou tout d'une durée?

R. Tout d'une durée, j'ai seulement loafé l'été dernier de juin au 5 août.

Q. Vous dites que vous avez travaillé à la compagnie pendant huit ans? R. Huit ans.

Q. Est-ce qu'il n'est pas arrivé une époque ou vous avez cessé de travailler et que vous êtes revenue plus tard en 1933? R. Non Monsieur, j'ai toujours travaillé à l'usine.

Q. Avant le six mai, 1935, n'êtes-vous pas parti de l'usine? R. Je crois que dans le mois de mai 1933, j'ai été renvoyée à cause qu'ils arrêtaient une équipe de nuit pour mettre un homme sur ma machine, un homme marié.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. A quel temps celà? R.

ME LAJOIE: En 1933.

Q. Votre père ne travaille pas au moulin?

R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous une soeur qui travaille au moulin?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Elle est encore là votre soeur.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Si je comprends bien, avez-vous dit que vous étiez entendue quand vous êtes allée voir M. le Maire?

R. Non Monsieur, avec l'organisation, impossible de s'entendre.

Q. Vous avez été remerciée au mois d'octobre, vous avez dit? R. Oui Monsieur, le 4 octobre.

Q. Avez-vous eu une difficulté très sérieuse avec M. Fortier avant le 4 octobre, dans les jours précédent de 14 4 octobre? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est votre contremaître? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que vous avez eu avec lui des mots peu agréables? R. Je lui ai dit que pour deux manquements, je ne devais pas être chicanée pour deux manques comme celà, pour une pièce de coton.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a eu d'autres choses que celà entre lui et vous? R. Qu'est-ce que vous voulez dire?

Q. Vous le savez, vous y étiez, je n'y étais pas.

R. Qu'est-ce que vous voulez savoir.

Q. Je veux savoir quelle difficulté vous avez eu avec M. Fortier avant d'être remerciée de vos services?

R. Quand j'ai été remerciée de mes services, je n'ai pas dit un seul mot, j'étais trop surprise.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. Quand? R. Quand il m'a appelée pour aller devoir le rouleau de méchant coton à la table, pour l'amour de deux manquements. C'est là que je lui ai dit que je n'avais plus d'affaire à lui.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. Vous avez dit à votre contremaître que vous n'aviez plus d'affaire à lui? R. Je lui ai dit que quand il aurait une affaire comme celà, d'agir avec plus de justice, pour aller à la table pour un morceau de méchant coton comme celà. Dans le moment, je me suis trouvée trop saisie. A part celà, je n'ai eu rien à faire avec lui.

Q. Vous ne vouliez pas avoir rien affaire avec le contremaître? ce jour là? R. Non.

Q. Vous vouliez que ce soit M. Tetell, le grand contremaître, vous vouliez avoir affaire avec lui?

R. Sur le moment, je l'ai repoussé, je l'ai seulement repoussé, je ne lui ai pas parlé du tout, j'étais trop surprise de voir la manière qu'il avait agit.

Q. Après celà, Monsieur Fortier, n'était pas content, il a demandé votre renvoi? R. Il est venu me parler plusieurs fois, après, j'ai toujours donné de très bon-

mes réponses.

Q. Vous avez été renvoyée combien de jours après celà?

R. À peu près trois semaines après.

Q. Est-ce que vous avez, après avoir eu une difficulté avec M. Fortier, eu des reproches au sujet de votre travail? R. Je ne m'en rappelle pas.

Q. Quand vous avez été remerciée de vos services, on vous a dit que vous faisiez du mauvais travail?

R. Oui Monsieur, un rouleau de méchant.

JOSEPH CHAMPOUX est assermenté.

PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Quel est votre age? R. 30 ans.

Q. Etes vous marié? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez vous des enfants? R. Quatre.

Q. Combien payez-vous de loyer? R.$16.00.

Q. Vous travaillez au moulin? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Quel est votre travail? R. Agerman, sur les machines pour cuire les couleurs.

Q. C'est un homme qui fait cuire les couleurs?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Depuis combien de temps êtes-vous employé au moulin Wabasso? R. Ca va faire neuf ans au mois de juin.

Q. Depuis combien de temps êtes-vous dans le travail que vous avez maintenant? R. Depuis environ, quatre ans et demi, a peu près.

Q

Q. Que faisiez-vous, avant cela? R. J'étais sur les machines pour assécher la couleur.

Q. Etes-vous payé à la pièce ou à l'heure?

R. A l'heure.

Q. Depuis combien de temps êtes-vous payé à l'heure?

R. Toujours.

Q. Vous gagnez combien de l'heure? R. Mon salaire est de 31 cents de l'heure.

Q. Actuellement, votre salaire est de 31 cents de l'heure. R. Actuellement, c'est pas ça que je retire.

Q. Votre salaire est de 31 cents de l'heure, vous ne retirez pas 31 cents? R. Non.

Q. Pourquoi? R. Parce que c'est une punition qu'ils me donnent, ils me payent 27½ cents.

Q. Votre salaire est de 31 cents, vous recevez 27 cents et une demie? R. 27½ cents.

Q. Ca fait 3½ cents qui manquent? R. Oui.

Q. Ca reste là? R. Oui.

Q. CA serait pourquoi? R. Il paraît qu'ils ont brisé une machine.

Q. Une machine a été brisée? R. Brisée.

Q. Que vous êtes appelé à payer? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Comment ça fait de temps que vous payer?

R. Depuis le milieu de novembre.

Q. 1935? R. 1935.

Q. Ca va durer combien de temps? R. Mon contremaître m'a dit que c'était pour durer deux ou trois semaines.

Q. Cela dure encore? R. Cela dure encore.

Q. Avez-vous demandé au contre-maître si ça été arrêté

R. Je lui ai demandé, il dit:"C'est M. Whitehead, pas moi.

Q. Cela dépendait de M. Whitehead? R. M. Whitehead.

Q.- Comment est-ce que c'est arrivé cela?

R. Je sais pas du tout, c'est de l'autre côté, ça passait sur d'autres machines, pas la mienne.

Q. La machine a été brisée? R. Je ne sais pas.

Q. Quelqu'un vous a dit que la machine avait été brisée? R. Mon contr-maître me l'a dit.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. Quel est le nom du contre-maître chez vous, dans votre département? R. M. Jackson.

PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Est-ce qu'il l'a dit plusieurs fois?

R. Seulement une.

Q. C'est M. Jackson qui vous a dit cela? R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce que c'est une machine dans votre département?

R. Non.

Q. C'est une machine ailleurs? R. Ailleurs.

Q. C'est une machine dans un autre département?

R. Un autre département.

Q. Dites-moi ce qu'il s'est agi? R. J'ai été accusé qu'il y avait une broche qui est restée dans le coton.

Q. Vous voulez dire dans une pièce de coton?

R. Une broche est sortie de l'autre côté.

Q. C'est-à-dire que le coton, en passant chez vous se serait écrasée dans la machine, embarrassée dans la machine? R. A la machine.

Q. Il serait parti, le coton, en se promenant avec une broche? R. Oui.

Q. C'est-à-dire, dans l'autre département, la broche a fait du désordre? R. Oui.

Q. Comment le coton va-t-il de votre département à l'autre? R. Il va sur une autre machine.

Q. Comment y va-t-il, en rouleau? R. En "truck".

Q. Porté par un homme? R. C'est un truck.

Q. C'est simplement déposé? R. Oui.

Q. Quand il arrive dans l'autre département, qu'est-ce qu'on fait avec le coton? R. Il va sur un "frame".

Q. Alors, le coton serait arrivé sur le frame avec une broche? R. Je sais pas si c'est là qu'il a fait le dommage, ou si c'est........

Q. On a prétendu que ça s'est accroché chez vous?

R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Etes-vous renvoyé ou suspendu?

R. Seulement "slacké" par ce qu'il n'y a pas d'ouvrage.

Q. Avez-vous été envoyé ou si vous n'avez pas été envoyé? R. Seulement pour un quart.

Q. Depuis le mois de février, vous ne travaillez pas?

R. Non.

Q. Vous ne vous considérez pas renvoyé? R. Non.

Q. Vous attendez? R. J'attends.

Q. M. Jackson ne vous a pas dit qu'il vous renvoyait? R. Non.

Q. Il a dit que si l'ouvrage reprenait qu'il vous reprendrait? R. Plus d'ouvrage.

Q. S'ils prennent une autre équipe, vous vous attendez qu'il va vous reprendre dans l'autre équipe? Alors vous gagnez, donc, officiellement, 31 cents de l'heure?

R. 31 cents de l'heure.

Q. Vous ne le retirez pas, c'est votre salaire?

R. C'est mon salaire.

Q. Sur l'enveloppe, comment c'est marqué?

R. Sur l'enveloppe, le temps est marqué, le prix est étampé dessus.

Q. Est-ce que c'est une enveloppe qui marque 31 cents de l'heure ou 27½ cents de l'heure?

R. Ils ne marquent pas le pris, ils marquent seulement le temps.

Q. On vous paye sur 27½cents? R. 27½cents.

Q. Avez-vous déjà gagné autre chose que 27½ cents et 31 cents? R. J'ai gagné 32 cents.

Q. Même métier? R. Même métier.

Q. Alsolument la même chose? R. Absolument la même chose.

Q. Quand cela? R. Ca fait cinq ans.

Q. Il y a 5 ans, vous aivez 32 cents pour faire cet ouvrage-là? R. Cet ouvrage-là.

Q. Combien faisiez-vous d'heures par jour dans ce temps-là? R. Je faisais 13 heures.

Q. A 32 cents? R. A 32 cents.

Q. Aujourd'hui, vous faites huit heures à 31 cents?

R. A 31 cents.

Q. Faites-vous huit heures ou sept heures?

R. Huit heures.

Q. Vous entrez quand et vous sortez quand?

R. J'entre de 3 à 11; depuis une esquousse, j'entre de 4 à minuit.

Q. Avez-vous une heure pour souper, la-dessus?

R. Absolument pas.

Q. Le souper se prend sur le travail?

R. En travaillant.

Q. Quand le coton arrive chez vous , comment est-il?

R. Il est étampé.

Q. Il reste chez vous pour cuire.R. Pour cuire.

Q. C'est une grosse machine où le coton passe dedans?

R. C'est-à-dire qu'il y a plusieurs petits rouleaux dedans.

Q. Et, vous, qu'est-ce que vous avez à faire?

R. Je suis la couleur.

Q. Vous êtes tout près de la machine?

R. Tout près de la machine.

Q. C'est un travail de surveillance, tout le temps

R. De surveillance.

Q. Quand vous gagniez 32 cents de l'heure, vous travaillez plus tard que le jour? R. Une demi-heure.

Q. Vous retirez moins, maintenant, que vous retiriez il y a 4 ou 5 ans? R. Il y a 4 ou 5 ans.

(Page 875 follows)

Par Me.BEAUREGARD:

Q Etes-vous un bon ouvrier com étant dans votre métier? R Certain, si je ferais pas mon ouvrage ils m'enverraient.

Q Est-ce qu'il y a longtemps que vous faites ça?

R Depuis neuf ans, j'ai installé la machinerie la bas.

Q C'est vous qui avez installé la machinerie?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Est-ce qu'il y a des inspecteurs de machines pour ces machines là? R Des inspecteurs?

Q Il y en a pas? R Non.

Q Depuis ce temps là faites vous toujours la même chose? R Toujours la même chose.

Q Combien y a-t-il d'employés qui travaillent là?

R Sur la machine je suis seul.

Q Avez-vous toujours été seul sur cette machine là?

R Toujours été seul. C'est à dire que dans l'autre département on avait deux machines quand on runnait deux doubles à la fois, il y avait un autre homme avec nous.

Q Expliquez moi ça? R C'est deux trucks, on met les deux cotons ensemble, ils passent ensemble dans la machine, il y a deux doubles ensemble.

Q Il y a deux doubles de coton? R Oui, et là on a qu'un coton et une machine.

Q Quand ils passent deux doubles de coton vous avez rien qu'une machine? R Là on passe pas deux doubles, c'est à dire qu'on a travaillé quand on a passé deux doubles à deux hommes.

Q Vous étiez autrefois plus de monde que maintenant?

R Oui, je suis seul pour les deux.

Q Au même prix? R Oui.

Q Avez-vous des enveloppes vous? R Oui, c'est

tout là.

Q Vous avez un livre aussi? R Oui.

Q Voulez-vous examiner le livre que je vous exhibe actuellement et me dire si Joseph Champoux, 648 Ste.Cécile, c'est vous? R Oui monsieur.

Q C'est vous qui avez écrit sur ce livre là?

R Oui,monsieur.

Q C'est un livre de temps? R Oui monsieur.

Q A la première page on voit.... R C'est pas là.

Q Ca ne commence pas là? R Non.

Q Où est-ce que ça commence la tenue de votre temps?

R Ca doit commencer ici, depuis que je travaille là.

Q Dans votre temps vous m'indiquez actuellement l'endroit où ça commence, c'est à dire où vous êtes à l'emploi que vous avez? R C'est à dire quand j'ai rentré à la manufacture.

Q Quand vous êtes entré à la manufacture, ça serait en... vous seriez rentré à l'emploi de la Wabasso en juillet 1927? R Oui.

Q Mais vous teniez votre temps avant ce temps là?

R Oui.

Q Vous m'indiquez qu'en 1927 la première paye reçue de la Wabasso serait en juin 1927? ROui.

Q Votre première paye serait? R C'est par mois ce bout là.

Q Elle serait de $15.14. Ca se trouve à la troisième page de votre livre? R Oui monsieur.

Q Si vous voulez on va faire une marque vu que le reste ne compte pas, à la page trois, je viens d'écrire les mots " entré à la Wabasso" avec une flèche qui tombe sur une barre en dessus du mot "juin". Ce fut en juin 1927, c'est le premier mois

que vous avez travaillé à la Wabasso? R Oui.

Q Et $15.14 c'est la paye de juin? R Oui.

Q Et le livre continue? R Oui.

Q Dois-je comprendre que le livre ensuite de ça, pour les années 1928,1929,1930,1931, 1932,1933,1934, 1935,1936, que c'est le temps et les payes que vous avez reçues de la compagnie Wabasso? R C'est les payes que j'ai reçues ça.

Q Voulez-vous produire ce livre comme pièce 66?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Maintenant dans le livre je constate des enveloppes de payes à la page où commence l'année 1935, je trouve cinq enveloppes de payes? R ~~$~~ Oui.

Q Voulez-vous les regarder et me dire si c'est vous qui les avez mises là? R Certain.

Q Alors ce sont vos enveloppes de payes? R Oui.

Q On pourrait les enlever de là? R Ce sont des payes avant que je sois coupé.

Q Là, vous me donnez deux enveloppes de payer, dont l'une portant le numéro 1863 et l'autre le numéro 1899. La paye No.1863 est de $27.20 pour 88 heures et la payte No.1899 est $27.30 pour 88 heures, et vous dites que ce sont deux payes sont avant que vous soyiez coupé, c'est à dire qu'on vous retienne 3½ cts de l'heure pour le baton là?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Ensuite les trois autres sont subséquentes à l'accident? R Ca c'est après.

Q Il y an a une 1838- $26.40 96 heures, l'autre 1814- $25.45, pour 93 heures, et une troisième No.1836, $26.40 pour 96 heures. Ca c'est après l'accident? R Oui monsieur.

Q Voulez-vous prendre les deux enveloppes d'avant l'accident No. 1863 et No.1899, et les produire comme pièce 67? R Oui monsieur.

Q et les trois enveloppes de 1935 aussi, mais portant les Nos. 1838, 1814 et 1836 et les produire comme pièce 68? R Oui monsieur.

Q Maintenant vous avez quatre autres enveloppes de l'années 1936, portant les numéros, décrites comme suites 1929- $26.40, 96 heures. 1844-$26.40- 96 heures.- No.1844 - $26.40, 96 heures. et No. 1824 $22.00 - 80 heures. Voulez-vous produire ces enveloppes comme exhibit ou pièce 69? R Oui monsieur.

Q Maintenant est-ce qu'on peut se fier à votre livre c'est honnêtement tenu? R Quand je reçois ma paye je la marque dedans la journée que je reçois ma paye.

Q Etes-vous d'accord avec les heures qui sont marquées sur les enveloppes? R Je travaille j'arrête pas pour manquer.

Q Est-ce que la compagnie compte le temps pendant lequel vous êtes supposé arrêter? R J'arrête pas.

Q Vous, vous êtes pas supposé arrêter? R Non.

Q C'est dans le métier ça? R Oui.

Q On travaille? R La machine arrête pas.

Q Et l'homme non plus? R Non.

Par le Commissaire: Il est payé pour cette heure là.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q Le temps entré sur les enveloppes est exactement le temps que vous avez travaillé? R Certain.

Q Est-ce que tout le monde dans votre métier a le même salaire? R L'autre je ne sais pas quel salaire il a.

Q Il s'appelle comment? R Dollard Lemay.

Q Il fait la même chose que vous? R Oui.

Q Est-ce un employé qui a plus d'expérience que vous dans le métier? R Il a plus de temps que moi de fait, mais d'un autre coté quand il travaillait le jour je travaillais 13 heures, il avait un contremaitre, la nuit moi j'ai pas de contremaitre, lui le jour il est avec un contremaitre.

Q Il vous laissait la nuit seul et vous faisiez l'ouvrage sans contremaitre, et votre confrère lui avait un contremaitre? R Oui.

Q Savez-vous quel est son salaire à l'heure à Lemay? R Je peux pas le dire, j'ai pas vu ses payes.

Q Vous le savez pas? R Il me l'a jamais dit.

Q Savez-vous où il demeure? R Rue Cooke, je ne sais pas le numéro.

par Me LAJOIE:

Q Etes-vous seul de votre famille qui travaillez au moulin? R On était deux.

Q Vous avez deux frères? R Un frère.

Q Vous et votre frère? R Oui monsieur.

Q Dans quel département travaille votre frère?

R A l'élévateur.

Q Depuis combien d'années travaillent-ils au moulin votre frère? R Il travaille au moulin depuis 6½ ans à 7 ans.

Q Vous avez déjà gagné 32 cts de l'heure? R Oui.

Q Il y a eu une coupe de 1 ct de l'heure? R Oui.

Q Combien d'années de ça? R Ca fait 5 ans de ça,

Q C'est la seule coupe dans vos payesque vous avez eue durant le temps que vous travaillez à la compagnie?

R Oui.

Q Vous travaillez là depuis combien d'années?

R 9 ans en juin.

Q Et dans ce temps de neuf ans vous avez eu une coupe? R Oui.

Q Et cette coupe a été de 1 cts? R 1 cts.

Q Vous travailliez avant 13 heures, c'est avant que la loi soit passée limitant le nombre d'heures par semaine? R C'est à dire 13 heures, ça fait...

Q Cinq jours et demi à 13 heures? R Je faisais quatre jours à 13 heures et une journée de 18 heures.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q Etiez-vous payé plus de temps supplémentaire, dans ces 18 heures? R Non monsieur.

Q Le même salaire que vous le restant? R Oui.

Par Me LAJOIE.

Q Il y a combien d'années de ça? R Ca doit faire à peu près deux ans.

Q Depuis deux ans ça été changé, ce ne sont plus même même heures de travail? R C'est 8 heures.

Q Cependant le salaire à l'heure est 31 cts? R Oui.

Q Au lieu de 1932 avant? R Oui monsieur.

Q J'ai pas bien compris votre manière d'expliquer comment vous travailliez sur votre machine pour les doubles, voulez-vous essayez à me faire comprendre?

R C'est deux trucks qu'on met du coton dedans, après qu'il a été imprimé on le passe double, pour les coller ensemble, pour les passer dans la machine, ça resort sur deux swings à la place d'un.

Q Vous êtes seul pour faire ça? R 2 hommes.

Q Quel est l'autre qui fait ça avec vous? R Ca,

ça change souvent, c'est jamais le même.

Q Mais vous êtes deux hommes? R Deux hommes, oui.

Q Vos enveloppes correspondent avec votre livre?

R Oui, toutes.

Q Vous attendez de reprendre l'ouvrage, lorsque le quart sur lequel vous étiez sera en opération? R Oui.

Par M. BEAUREGARD:

Q Vous avez parlé d'une coupe de salaire en neuf ans et d'une augmentation d'ouvrage? R Oui.

Q Les deux? R Oui monsieur.

Q Qu'est-ce que vous appelez augmentation de travail?

Par le COMMISSAIRE:

Q Une coupe de salaire à tant de l'heure, mais une augmentation de travail? R De deux machines pour une.

Q C'est à dire avant vous aviez plus cher pour une machine que vous avez maintenant pour deux?

R Oui.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q C'est à dire que vous êtes devenu deux hommes?

R .....

Par Me LAJOIE:

Q Quand vous aviez 32 cts de l'heure combien passiez vous de coton, un double ou deux?

R Un double et deux doubles.

Q Vous étiez combien d'hommes? R On était deux, on prenait un autre homme.

Q A l'heure actuelle vous passez deux doubles et deux hommes? R Une machine.

Q Vous opérez rien qu'une machine à un double, vous?

R Deux machines à un double.

Q Puis quand vous êtes deux hommes, c'est pour deux machines à un double? R Un homme pour les deux machines à un double.

Q Ce sont les mêmes machines? R Oui, monsieu

Par Me BEAUREGARD: Ils lui ont fait cadeau d'une machine.

Par Me LAJOIE:

Q Vous travaillez huit heures pareil? R Oui.

La séance est ajournée à 5.00 heures P.M. pour être reprise vendredi à 10.00 de l'avant-midi

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON;

Commissioner.

A. S. Whiteley, Secretary.

SEVENTH DAY

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,
Commissioner.

A.S. Whiteley, Secretary.

J.C. McRuer, K.C., and) E. Beauregard, K.C.,)	Commission Counsel.
J.P. Lanctot, K.C.,	For special Committee of Primary Textile Industries.
S.G. Dixon, K.C.,	For Cortaulds Limited,
L.A. Forsyth, K.C.,	For Canadian Celanese Limited and Canadian Silk Products Limited.
Francois Lajoie, K.C.,	For the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited.
Hormidas Garipey,	For the Local Union of the United Textile Workers of America.

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

Trois-Rivières, Qué.,
le 27 mars 1936.

La séance s 'ouvre à 10.15 de l'avant-midi sous la présidence de l'honorable Juge W.F. A. Turgeon.

RENE ROBILLIARD, est assermenté.

Examiné par Me ELIE BEAUREGARD, C.R.:

Q Monsieur Robilliard, quel age avez-vous ?
R J'ai 26 ans, monsieur.
Q Depuis combien de temps travaillez-vous au moulin ? R. Six ans, environ six ans.
Q Quelle est votre occupation actuelle ?
R "Smash fixer".
Q Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire ?
R C'est pour passer les brins du "warp".
Q Vous posez les fils sur les machines pour les tisserands ? R. C'est pour partir la machine pour le tisserands.
Q Pour faire ce travail, je suppose qu'il faut savoir tisser ? R. Probablement.
Q Il faut connaitre la machine dans tous ses détails ? R. Oui, monsieur.
Q Depuis combien de temps faites-vous ce travail-là ? R. Depuis un an et demi, je crois.
Q Avant cela, qu'est-ce que vous faisiez ?
R J'étais "weaver", j'étais "spare Weaver".
Q Quel salaire avez-vous actuellement, monsieur Robilliard ? R. $ 0.29 de l'heure.

Q Depuis combien de temps avez-vous $ 0.20 de l'heure ? R. Je crois que c'est depuis qu'ils ont mis trois quarts.

Q Faites-vous 8 heures par jour ?

R Oui, monsieur 8 heures par jour.

Q De quelle heure à quelle heure ?

R De 11 heures à 7 heures.

Q La nuit, cela ? R. Oui, la nuit.

Q Alors, vous dites que vous travaillez de 11 heures du soir à7 heures le lendemain matin ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Ces quarts-là ont été installés depuis l'été dernier ?

R Au mois d'avril ou mars, je crois.

Q Alors, c'est à la fin de mars ou au commencement d'avril que ces quarts-là ont été installés ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Avant cela, combien d'heures travaillez-vous ?

R On travaillait 12 heures par jour.

Q Do qulle heure à quelle heure ?

R De six heures à sept heures; on avait une heure à minuit.

Q Vous travailliez 12 heures par jour, de 6 heures du soir à 7 heures du matin avec seulement 1 heure de repos à minuit ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Comme question de fait, arrêtiez-vous à minuit?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Quel était votre salaire à l'heure dans ce temps-là? R. Pour dire au juste, on était payé au "pick" et je n'ai jamais compté cela.

Q Mais comme "smash fixer" ?

R Si je me rappelle bien, j'avais $ 0.31 de

l'heure.

Q Vous aviez dans ce temps-là $0.31 de l'heure pour le même ouvrage que vous faites aujourd'hui à $ 0.29 de l'heure ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q C'est-à-dire qu'aujourd'hui vous travaillez 8 heures à $ 0.29 tandis que dans ce temps-là vous en travailliez 12 à $ 0.31 ?

R Exactement.

Q Avez-vous su pourquoi le prix de votre travail a été diminué de deux sous de l'heure ainsi que le nombre d'heure ?

R Lorsqu'ils m'ont dit qu'ils me mettaient à $ 0.29, ils m'ont dit qu'on était pour être payé plus cher la nuit, qu'ils nous mettaient à la pièce, que si la production rendu, qu'ils nous donneraient un bonus. C'était sur toute la production, cela.

Q Alors vous deveniez interreséé dans la production de tous ces métiers-là ? R. Certain.

Q Alors, si le patron trouvait que la production était rendu, vous auriez plus cher ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q En attendant que le patron soit satisfait, ils ont commencé par vous descendre ?

R On faisait $ 0.29 garanti et pour faire plus, je crois que c'était pas mal mal aisé; on n'a jamais été capable de faire plus que $ 0.29. Quand on en faisait plus une journée, on avait plus de machines le lendemain, alors cela ne servait à rien de se faire mourir.

Q Vous dites que quand la production a l'air d'aug-

menter, les tisserands recevaient plus de métiers à surveiller et ceci avait pour effet de diminuer la production; êtes-vous de cette opinion-là, que quand un ouvrierx a plus de métiers, il produit moins que quand il en a moins ?

R C'est entendu, moins l'on a de métiers à surveiller, cà prend moins de temps à regarder notre ouvrage et on en fait plus.

Q Combien de métiers aviez-vous ?

R J'ai "runner" 30, 50 et 60 et même 75 métiers et je crois que j'en ai eu jusqu'à 89; une fois j'ai remplacé pendant trois nuits sur 114 métiers.

Q Vous dites que vous aviez 114 métiers à surveiller ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q C'est-à-dire que quand les fils cassent, vous allez les réparer ?

R Dans ce temps-là, j'étais "spare"; j'ai remplacé un type qui "runnait" 114 machines.

Q A peu près 114 machines ?

R Je faisais marcher ceux que je pouvais.

Q Et les autres machines dormaient pendant ce temps là ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Alors vous faisiez plus d'argent - 114 machines c'était exceptionnel - avec 60 machine qu'avec 80 ?

R Les meilleurs salaires que j'ai faits, c'est quand j'avais 24 métiers.

Q C'était votre bon temps quand vous aviez 24 métiers ? R. J'avais le temps de faire le tour.

Q Parce que vous pouviez tenir vos 24 métiers en opération, c'était plus facile d'entretenir 24 métiers que 80 ? R. Oui.

Q Etait-ce dans la nuit de 12 heures que vous avez eu 111 4 machines ? R. Oui.

Q Cà passablement d'espace 114 métiers sur un plancher? R. Cà prend à peu près la moitié d'un appartement.

Q. C8est un plancher cela, un appartement .....
A quel étage sont-ils ces métiers là ?

R. Dans le soubassement qu'on appelle.

Q. Ces métiers là ont combien, quelle est leur largeur ? R. Les Drapers ont 48 pouces, il y en a qui ont 26 et d'autres 30 pouces; cela dépend du style du coton.

Q. Ca prend à peu près un quart de la pièce ?

R. Je crois qu'il y a 332 machines surle plancher.

Q. Il y a trois hommes, je suppose pour ronner cela?

R. Je crois qu'il ya 4 ou 5 weavers.

Q. Quel est votre salaire moyen depuis quelque temps?

R. Quand je travaille régulièrement, je fais 94 heures pour $27.25.

Q. Avez-vous déjà gagné plus cher que cela $27.00 ou $28.00 par quinzaine ?

R. J'ai gagné $35.00, $43.00, et $45.00 par quinzaine; si je me rappelle bien, je crois aussi que j'ai fait jusqu'à $48.00.

Q. Sur quel métier étiez-vous dans ce temps-là ?

R. J'étais tisserand sur les Drapers.

Q. Il y a combien de temps que vous faisiez cela ?

R. Ca remonte à trois ans et demi ou quatreans.

Q. Ca représentait combien d'heures, dansle temps que vous faisiez cela ?

R. Là , on se trouvait à travailler 60 heures par semaine, ça donnait environ 120 heures par quinzaine.

Q. Alors, ce que vous auriez pu produire dans 120 heures vous donnait de $42.00 à $45.00 ?

R. Je faisais aussi de $30.00 à $36.00, cela dépend des opérations que l'on faisait; j'ai fait $37.00, $38.00 et $40.00.

Q.- C'est-à-dire que cela variait de $36.00 à $45.00?

R. Oui; $38.00 et $40.00, j'aifait cela souvent.

Q. Alors, la différence, entre $27.00 et $40.00, était en moyenne d'a peu près de $13.00 par quinzaine? et cette différence serait représentée par une différence de 26 heures de travail ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Quand vous faisiez cessalaires là dont vous veniez de parler, combien aviez-vous de métiers dans ce temps-là ? R. Par secousse, quand j'étais smash fixer j'en avais de 36 à 37.

Q. Quand vous étiez smash fixier, vous en aviez de 36 à 37, si je comprends bien ?

R. Oui; on était toujours à la production dans ce temps-là.

Q. C'est-à-dire que votre salaire était supposé varier avec la production que vous faisiez ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Etes-vous d'opinion que plus on a de machines, on produit moins, et moins on en a, on produit d'avantage ? R. On a toujors calculé cela.

Q. Pour un ouvrier, est-ce moins fatiguant de conduire 24 ou 25 machines que d'en conduire 75 ou 80?

R. Je l'ai constaté quand j'arrivais chez nous le soir, quand j'avais 80 machines, j'arrivais fatigué; des fois, j'avais l'intention de demander une paire

de patins à roulettes.

Q. Pour aller plus vite ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. La différence de salaire qui parait ressortir de votre témoignagn, est-ce que c'est venu tout d'un coup ou bien si c'est venu petit à petit ? Je vois que vous avez eu une diminution appréciable de $13.00 14.00 et 15.00 par quinzaine ?

R. Non, on a été baissé par 10 % .

Q. Alors, ils vous baissdent petit à petit ?

R. Ils nous ont baissés, et ils ont augmenté les machines, à la fin du compte, avec une baisse de 10% et vu que quand nous avons plus de machines, nous produisons moins, ça fait deux baisses à la fois.

Q. Voulez vous dire que la production sur la machine, étant donné que vous travaillez sur tells espèces de coton, que le prix payé à l'ouvrier est moindre lorsqu'il y a plus de machines ? R. Oui Monsieur; En nous augmentant, le nombre de machines cela baissait encore notre salaire.

Q. Alors, quand l'ouvrier avait plus de machines, il faisait moins d'ouvage; C'était une diminution additionnelle, C'est cela votre opinion.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Etiez-vous capable de controler la production par la machine, aviez-vous un cadran enregistreur sur les machines ?

R. Sur les Drapers, Oui. J'ai travaillé sur les métiers anglais, avant.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y avait des cadrans sur les métiers anglais ?

R. Pas dans le temps que j'ai travaillé dessus.

Q. Depuis combien de temps y a-t-il des cadrans sur les métiers anglais.

R. Si je ne me trompe pas, c'est depuis l'été passé.

Q. Avant, il n'y en avait pas ? R. Non.

Q. Comment mesurait-il le travail avant ?

R. Il séparait de moitié avec la fille du jour, celle qui travaillait le jour à ma place, ce que nous faisions tous les deux était séparé en deux et l'on en recevait chacun la moitié; des fois, j'ai fait jusqu'à 120 heures pour $16.00 sur des métiers anglais. Quand on ronne sur des coupons, c'est presque pas ronnable. On ne pouvait pas faire plus par jour et ils nous payaient le même prix.

Q. L'ouvrage était difficile et votre quinzaine se réduisait à $16.00 sans perdre de temps ?

R. Oui, seulement je n'ai pas eu la malchance de faire beaucoup d'échantillons.

Q. D'une façon générale, pouviez-vous savoir quel salaire, vous auriez retiré, avant de le toucher ?

R. Je ne l'ai jamais su avant de venir à ce printemps, quand on a demandé la carte de salaire.

Q. Vous n'aviez jamais su avant d'avoir le cadran, combien vous aviez du mille picks ?

R. Oui monsieur.

Q. Quand un ouvrage n'est pas bon, quand vous avez du mauvais coton, qu'est-ce qui arrive ?

R. Je n'ai jamais été malchanceux pour avoir du mauvais coton, du moins, je n'ai pas eu de rapport.

Q. Vous n'avez pas été appelé souvent à la table ?

R. Depuis que je suis là, je crois que je suis allé 4 ou 5 fois à la table.

Q. Pas plus que cela ?

R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Maintenant, c'est 80 ou 75 métiers, est-ce qu'il y a des femmes qui font ce travail là ?

R. Elles faisaient le même travail que nous, seulement, nous, nous étions la nuit et elles étaient le jour.

Q. Ce n'est pas un ouvrage de fantaisie cela ?

R. Pas d'après moi.

Q. J'ai entendu dire cela, hier, j'ai entendu dire ue c'était de l'ouvrage plutôt pour les dames ?

R. J'ai compris que Me Lajoie a dit hier que c'était un ouvrage de femmes. Moi, je me compte pas pour un bon homme, mais je compte que une jeune fille qui suivrait derrière moi, elle serait bonne. Je ne veux me vanter, seulement ....

Q. Alors, ce petit travail de 80 à 100 métiers, les femmes le faisaient dans ce temps-là ?

R. Oui Monsieur. On ne le peut maintenant, cela n'a pas existé lontemps, cela n'a existé qu'environ trois mois et je peux vous dire le nom de celui qui les a ronner dans ce temps-là.

Q. Je serais bien content de le savoir.

R. C'est M. Gilbert qui les ronnait dans ce temps-là, M. Amédée Gilbert.

Q. Il faisait cela continuellement ?

R. Il les a ronnés environ trois mois, après ça, ils les ont ôtés, ce n'était pas raisonnable.

Q. Ce dépassait la force d'un ouvrier ?

R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce que se sont des employés plutôt jeunes qui font ce travail-là ou bien si se sont des vieux ?

R. Dix-huit ou dix-heuf ans, je n'ai pas remarqué.

Q Des hommes et des femmes ?

R Je n'ai jamais demandé cela, je ne suis pas au courant.

Q Ce métier que vous faites, de poser les warps est-ce que cela est fait uniquement par des vieux employés ?

R Oui, en partie par des hommes assez expérimentés dans le mouvement.

Q Combien cela prend-il de temps pour poser les brins ? R. Il y en a qui peuvent prendre 10 minutes et d'autres deux heures, trois heures et quatre heures. Cela dépend de l'étoffe, si on warp trois ou quatre mille; on peut avoir plus de brins de cassés quand on a eu de la malchance.

Q Pendant ce temps-là, le tisserand travaille-t-il?

R Il est content dans ce temps-là; il en a assez à avoir soin.

Q Qui est-ce qui est gérant dans votre département?

R Monsieur Gérard Tremblay.

Q Avez-vous plus d'un contremaitre dans votre département? R. Avant cela il y avait différent contremaitre, dans le moment, c'est monsieur Tremblay.

Q Savez-vous s'il y a une production, si chaque ouvrier doit produire une quantité déterminé ?

R Il exige une certaine production, je crois que certain c'est 80 et d'autres 85, 86 et 87, cela dépend du département; je crois que dans mon département, ils exigent 85.

Q 85 quoi ? R. 85 p.c nt de la production.

Q Comment pouvez-vous aprécier la valeur de

100 p. cent de production ?

R C'est ce que la machine peut produire dans une journée, quand cela va bien.

Q Le 100 p. cent serait le rendement idéal, si les machines n'arrêtaient pas ?

R Oui, on ne peut pas la rendre parce qu'ils nous augmentent de machinew quand on fait beaucoup.

Q Ce que vous appelez 100 p. cent, c'est le rendement idéal qui est confié à un employé ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Comme cela est la perfection, la compagnie ne l'exige pas, elle exige 85 ou 87 p. cent du rendement ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Qu'est-ce qui arrive quand un ouvrier ne peut pas donner le rendement idéal ?

R Ils passent dans les rangs et disent que la production ne rentre pas. Maintenant, ils ont déjà exigé plus que cela; dans letemps ils disaient de continuer à aller plus vite autrement qu'ils seraient obligé d'en mettre un autre à notre place. Quand on a 80 ou 90 machine, je pense qu'une personne fait son possible. Si on dépassait le nombre demandé, ils nous augmentaient de machine.

Q Devons-nous comprendre que ce sont les mêmes exigences pour les femmes ?

R Absolument; parce j'ai déjà rentré le soir et les petites filles pleuraient parce qu'ils n'avaient pas été capable de rendre leur production.

Q Ils vous ont dit cela, mais vous les avez vu pleurer ? R. Oui, elles pleuraient encore quand je rentrais.

(Page 900 suit)

Par Mtre LAJOIE:

Q Monsieur René Robillard, faites-vous partie de l'Exécutif de l'Union Locale des Tisserands?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Le nommé Rene Robillard mentionné ici dans l'exhibit 49, employé au département du tissage est-ce vous? R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous étiez dans l'exécutif de la grève M. Robillard? R Oui monsieur.

Q Quand êtes-vous entré pour la première fois à l'emploi de la compagnie Wabasso?

R Je ne peux pas dire au juste. Je vous ai dit environ six ans tout à l'heure, ça peut varier d'un mois ou deux, vous dire la date juste, je ne peux pas vous la dire.

Q Quand vous êtes entré quel salaire aviez-vous?

R J'ai entré comme helper, comme apprenti, j'avais $1.81 par jour.

Q Avant d'entrer là qu'est-ce que vous faisiez?

R J'étais cultivateur.

Q Vous restiez dans quelle paroisse?

R Dans le comté de Wolfe.

Q Vous êtes parti de la campagne en quelle année? R C'est une chose qui m'embête, en 1930 j'étais dans l'industrie ici.

Q Vous allez répondre à la question que je vous ai posée. En quelle année êtes-vous arrivé à Trois Rivières? R Je vous ai dit que je n'étais pas capable de dire au juste, j'ai dit que ça faisait environ six ans.

Q Votre famille demeure à Trois Rivières?

R Non.

Q Vous êtes parti de sur la terre pour venir vous mettre en pension à Trois Rivières?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Et vous avez pris position à la Wabasso? R Oui.

Q. Vous avez toujours travaillé là? R Oui monsieur

Q Vous avez pas eu l'idée de laisser l'emploi de la compagnie pour vous trouvez une position qui vous fatiguerait moins? R C'est encore difficile quand on est habitué à une.

Q Maintenant, tout ce que vous saviez faire avant d'entrer là, c'est de travailler sur la terre?

R Oui.

Q Quand vous vous êtes aperçu, quand vous vous êtes vu accablé d'ouvrage comme ça, d'après ce que vous avez dit, vous avez pas pensé de trouver une position, qui vous donnerait plus de loisir?

R Puisque tantot vous avez parlé de colonisation, je vais vous en parler, sur la terre on travaillait quatorze à seize heures par jour, la même chose, pour être capable de manger trois fois par jour, j'ai pensé, que travailler ici à corps perdu la même chose que sur la terre, c'était pas pire.

Q Vous avez pas empiré votre sort en venant aux Trois Rivières? R L'un ou l'autre c'est pas une grosse différence.

Q Vous avez déjà touché 31 cts? R D'après mon aperçu.

Q Vous travailliez combien d'heures pour toucher ça?

R 12 heures.

Q Et la loi a forcé de réduire les heures du travail, c'est une loi fédéral, et vous avez été réduit à travailler huit heures au lieu de 12 heures?

R Oui.

Q Et votre salaire a été réduit à 29 cts de l'heure au lieu de 31 cts? R Ce qu'on m'a dit à l'office.

Q C'est ce que vous avez déclaré, vous avez pas dit: l'office m'a dit que je gagnais 29 cts? C'est ça que vous gagnez 29 cts de l'heure?

R Oui, je crois que j'ai retiré six cents de plus une fois pour la paye.

Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q Pour une quinzaine? R Oui, monsieur.

Par Me LAJOIE.

Q Vous avez déjà fait marcher des métiers anglais?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Etait-il plus difficile à faire marcher que les métiers Draper, qui sont des métiers améliorés?

R Oui, pour commencer, je connaissais pas le métier anglais, j'aimais mieux runner quatre métiers en haut sur le 2ième plancher que d'en faire runner 80 en bas.

Q N'est-il pas vrai M. Robillard, si vous avez un peu d'expérience, que ce n'est pas le nombre de métiers qui fait l'ouvrage qui rend l'ouvrage difficile, c'est la marchandise que vous avez à faire sur le métier, il y a différentes marchandises que l'on fait sur les métiers, vous avez parlé de coupons c'est un ouvrage plus difficile que l'autre marchandise? R Oui monsieur.

Q Pour apprécier la dureté de l'ouvrage sur les métiers, ça dépend de la sorte de marchandise que vous avez à faire? R J'ai pas constaté ça de cette manière, j'ai passé sur toute l'ouvrage, j'ai travaillé sur du 20 lames, 14 lames, 8 lames

sept lames attachées, 2 lames, 3 lames attachées, je pense que j'ai passé à toutes les sortes.

Q L'ouvrage est plus difficile sur différentes sortes de coton que sur d'autres? R Je l'admets.

Q Ce n'est pas le nombre de métiers que vous avez à opérer que la sorte d'ouvrage que vous avez à faire qui rend le travail plus pénible?

R Vous parlez de métiers, j'avais six métiers, je retirais $39.00.

Q En quelle année ça? R Je crois en 1932 ou 1933, je ne peux pas dire, et puis un coup j'étais supposé retirer $43.00, d'après ce que j'avais compté par les pièces. Il y en a qui sont allés avant moi à l'office, j'ai retiré seulement que $39.00 j'étais supposé retiré $43.00 par mes cotons, j'ai eu la réponse, pas moi, j'y étais pas...

Q Ce sont les autres qui vous l'ont dit?

R C'est mes confrères qui était dans la même chose, on a tous eu la même coupe.

Q Parlez de votre coupe à vous, mais pas de la coupe de votre voisin? R Je parle de la mienne, c'est certain, parce que mes confrères travaillaient à coté de moi et il y en avait qui avait une coupe de $1.00, $2.00, $3.00, ils m'ont dit ça à moi, et j'ai constaté par ma paye que je devais retirer $43.00 et quelques cents et j'ai retiré que $39.00.

Q Quand vous avez retiré $39.00 êtes-vous allé à l'office faire une réclamation?

R Non j'ai trouvé que mes confrères avaient été reçus assez mal...

Q Vous y étiez pas? R J'ai parti pour m'en

aller à l'office, ils ont dit: vas y pas on s'est fait revirer, quand j'ai vu qu'ils s'étaient fait revirer de cette manière j'y ai pas été.

Q Quel était votre grief? R Il me manquait $4.00.

Q Pour le nombre de hanks? R Non ça marchait par les outs.

Q Vous divisiez avec la jeune fille? % Oui.

Q Elle travaillait le même nombre d'heures, vous? R Oui, je faisais 12 heures et elle 10,heures, la différence d'heures était diminuée par le temps.

Q Pour aviez le crédit pour la différence d'heure que vous faisiez? R Je l'explique comme il faut, on était de moitié pour le nombre d'heures, seulement on comptait pas les hanks là dessus.

Q Les compteurs ont été installés le printemps dernier sur les machines anglaises? R J'ai pas rapport à ça ces machines là je ne travaille pas dessus, j'ai déjà travaillé mais je travaille plus.

Q Vous avez conduit 114 métiers frois nuits? R Oui,j'étais spare dans le temps, j'ai remplacé M.Guilbert.

Q Ca été accidentel, c'est arrivé trois nuits par accident? R. Mois je l'ai ai conduit accidentellement, mais l'autre les conduisait, c'était son set régulier.

Q.- Vous vous les avez conduit trois fois?
R. Oui.

Q. Il y a combien de temps, de celà, combien d'années. Plus qu'une année? R. Oui!

Q. Deux ans? R. Ah oui.

Q. Combien d'années, dites-nous le? N'essayez pas de mettre 1932 avec 1935, Monsieur Beauregard, veut avoir les conditions actuelles, et ne pas mêler ce qui

s'est passé en 1932 et le mettre sur le même niveau et le mettre sur le même niveau avec ce qui s'est passé en 1935. Ce qu'on veut, c'est les conditions actuelles? R. Quand j'ai runné celà, il m'ont pas dit que M. Beauregard viendrait.

Q. Combien est-ce que ça fait d'années?

R. Environ quatre ans, je ne puis pas dire au juste.

Q. Il y a quatre ans, vous avez fait marcher 114 métiers? R. Pas cent quatorze, j'étais pas cabable.

Q. On vous les a confiés et vous n'avez pas pu les faire marcher? R. Non, Monsieur.

Q. Il y a quatre ans de celà? R. Oui.

Q. Aimeriez-vous à travailler plus que 8 heures par jour actuellement? R. 8 heures, c'est suffisant.

Q. Vous ne désirez pas revenir au système de 12 heures? R. Non, je suis satisfait, parce qu'on est fatigué la même chose.

Q. Vous n'aimeriez pas a avoir la différence du temps à votre disposition? R. Quand vous travaillez huit heures, vous calculez que vous en avez probablement assez.

Q. On travaille beaucoup plus que celà nous autre?

R. Je l'admets, seulement, vous êtes pas dans la même position que nous.

Q. C'est aussi fatiguant que votre ouvrage?

R. Probablement.

Q. La vitesse des machines est règlée?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Elles sont tous sensées tourner à une certaine vitesse, semblable pour toutes les machines du même département? R. Oui, cent soixante tours à la minute je crois, et elles vont jusqu'à cent quatre-vingt douze, si je ne me trompe pas.

Q. Sur la production, comment pouvez-vous être renseigné? sur le percentage de production, où avez vous pris vos renseignements, est-ce au bureau qu'on vous les as donnés? R. Oui, il y a une pancarte où toutes les productions sont marquées, de tel et tel département, la weave shed, la St-Maurice Basement...

Q. Toute la production est marquée, vous pouvez constater la production chaque semaine? R. Oui

Q. C'est ouvert à tous les employés?

R. Oui, puisque c'est accroché au mur.

Q. Et vous prétendez que vous marchez vous, les machines qu'on vous confie à 80% de la capacité de la machine? R. A 84%, je me trouve pas a avoir cette production là, par rapport au runnage des métiers.

Q. Comment ça fait de temps que vous n'avez pas pris part à la marche des métiers? R. Un an et demi à deux ans.

Q. Quand vous parlez de la production de 80%, vous parlez de la production d'aujourd'hui.

R. Certainement.

Q. Et vous, vous ne prenez pas part à cette production depuis un an, un an et demi? R. On me dit qu'on nous paye sur la production, on n'est assuré de 29 cents de l'heure, si la production dépasse le nombre qu'on nous demande, 87% je pourrais avoir 2, 3 et 4 cents de l'heure de plus.

Q. Depuis quand avez vous 29 cents de l'heure?

R. Depuis que les quarts sont commencés.

Q. Depuis l'été dernier? R. Oui, si je me rappelle bien.

Q. Vous entendez-vous bien avec votre contremaître

Gérard Tremblay?

R. J'ai jamais eu un mot avec, mon contremaître, il faut croire que je fais mon ouvrage.

Q. Il vous traite bien? R. Certainement.

Q. Vous avez pas à vous pleindre de lui?

R. S'ils étaient tous comme ça, je peux croire que personne ne dirait un mot.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Monsieur Lajoie a insisté sur le fait qu'il y a quatre ans, pendant trois nuits, vous avez conduit cent quatorze moulins, mais il y a quatre ans, est-ce que quelqu'un conduisait toute la nuit pendant trois mois ces cent quatorze métiers? R. Oui Monsieur.

ET LE DIT TEMOIN NE DIT RIEN DE PLUS

HENRI MATTON, est assermenté.

INTERROGE PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Quel âge avez vous M. Matton? R. 41 ans.

Q. Etes vous marié? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Combien avez-vous d'enfants? R. j'ai 8 enfants.

Q. Combien payez-vous de loyer? R. 12.00 par mois.

Q. Depuis combien de temps travaillez vous au moulin?

R. J'ai pas travaillé continuellement, mais j'ai environ une quinzaine d'années de travail de fait dans le moulin.

Q. Si vous avez quinze ans de service, vous avez commencé il y a plus de quinze ans au moulin?

R. Oui, j'ai commencé a peu près il y a vingt-deux ans.
Q. Depuis combien de temps travaillez-vous depuis que vous avez repris le travail au moulin pour la dernière fois? R. Depuis environ trois ans.
Q. Vous avez trois ans de fait continus?
R. Oui, à peu près.
Q. Quel est votre métier actuel Monsieur?
R. Weaver.
Q. Sur quelle sorte de ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ métiers?
R. Sur les grands Drapers qu'ils appellent.
Q. Ça veut dire qu'ils ont combien de large?
R. Ce sont des métiers qui peuvent weaver de 80 à 90 pouces.
Q. De large? R. Oui Monsieur.
Q. Le tissu qu'ils font ànt 80 à 90 pouces de large?
R. Oui.
Q. Vous avez combien de ces métiers-là?
R. Dans le moment, j'en ai quatorze.
Q. Vous êtes payés sur la base des picks?
R. Oui, au mille picks.
Q. Combien le mille picks? R. Je pense que c'est peut être $4.97.
Q. Quelle est la moyenne de votre salaire?
R. C'est pas égal, on peut faire à peu près $31.00 à $32.00.
Q. $30.00, $31.00, $32.00 par quinzaine?
R. Par quinzaine, oui.
Q. Depuis combien de temps est-ce votre salaire?
R. Depuis a peu près qu'on est sur les quarts.
Q. Avant de celà, quel était votre salaire ordinaire?

R On s'est rendu à $42.00.

Q $42.00 par quinzaine? R Il me semble.

Q Quand vous travailliez 12 heures, ce temps là?

R On travaillait 10 heures, 55 heures par semaines.

Q Cinquante-cinq heures par semaine, c'est à dire 110 heures pour deux semaines, vous donnait $42.00

R Oui, des fois on pouvait peut être quelquefois faire de l'extra le samedi après midi, je suis pas sur, j'ai fait $42.00

Q Maintenant c'est 84 heures que vous travaillez?

R 96 heures.

Q Et ça vous donne $31.00 à $32.00? R Oui, un average.

Q Alors la différence de 14 heures par quinzaine, apporte une différence de $10.00. Pouvons-nous savoir quel était l'ouvrage de votre salaire, vous avez dit $42.00, est-ce que c'est $42.00?

R Vous m'avez demandé si j'avais gagné plus, je me suis rendu à $42.00.

Q Quel est votre moyenne? R $38.00 à $39.00 je suppose.

Q C'est $38.00 ou $39.00 qu'il faudrait comparer à $31.00 ou $32.00 n'est-ce pas? R Oui, c'est ça.

Q C'est à dire que 110 heures vous donnaient $38.00 ou $39.00 comme moyenne et maintenant 96 heures vous donne $31.00 à $32.00 comme moyenne, laissant une différende de $7.00 ou $8.00 pour les le heures? R Oui monsieur.

Q Avez-vous déjà toujours eu autant de métiers que vous avez là? R J'en ai plus.

Q Combien? R J'ai eu 22 métiers.

Q Tous des grands comme celui là? R Oui.

Q Ca vous faisait à peu près un tiers de plus?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Pensez-vous que vous faites plus d'argent avec plus de métier? R On fait moins d'argent.

Q Vous faites moins d'argent? R Toujours moins d'argent.

Q Plus il y a de métiers moins vous avez d'argent,

R Le prix est diminué en proportion du métier maintenant.

Q Vous produisez plus de coton mais le prix de votre coton à la verge ou au rouleau ou au pick était moins élevé? R Etait baissé oui.

Q C'est à dire que votre intéret n'est pas limité à la production, vous n'êtes pas payé sur la production?

R On est payé au 1000 picks.

Q Le prix initial varie suivant quoi?

R Suivant la différence de métiers, quand on en a plus, on a un set de métier de 12 métiers, on nous paye $5.88.

Q C'est un prix déterminé ça?

R Oui, c'est sur une liste.

Q C'est affiché ça?

R C'est la liste affiché.

Q Douze métiers? R Oui.

Q Treize métiers? R Ca doit donner $5.38 si je ne me trompe pas.

Q Pour ne pas charger votre déposition, voulez-vous prendre connaissance d'un écrit que je vous exhib et dire s'il a été préparé par vous. Est-ce vous qui avez préparé ce document, vous l'avez copié?

R Je jure que j'ai copié la liste.

Q Où? R Au moulin.

Q Je comprends qu'au moulin ...... R Seulement

que celle là a été faite sur une copie de la mienne à l'encre, à la maison.

Q En garantissez vous l'exactitude? R Oui.

Q Voulez-vous la produire....

Par Me.Lajoie: Voici, qu'il plaise à Monsieur le Commissaire, c'est peut être un extrait d'une partie de l'affiche, c'est peut être, la 2ième, la 5ième colonne, c'est pour ça qu'avant de le produire je veux m'en rendre compte.

Q Est-ce toute la copie qui est affichée ou un extrait, deux colonnes de la copie?

R Vous avez la copie qui donne le speed 90, et le speed de 100.

Q Sur cette carte, à cette feuille d'affiche, il y a beaucoup d'autre chose de mis? R Il peut y avoir une petite entête là, quant aux chiffres c'est les mêmes.

Q Il y a d'autre chose d'écrit sur cette feuille d'affiche? R Il peut y avoir un entête.

Q Il y a pas d'autres chiffres là dessus?

R Je pense pas.

Q Il y a pas une autre colonne de chiffres?

R Vous avez deux colonnes.

Q Il n'y en a pas d'autres colonnes que les deux colonnes que vous avez là? R Je ne crois pas.

Q Etes-vous sur de ça? R Je prétends avoir exactement la liste.

Q A quel endroit avez-vous pris ça?

R A la St.Maurice Basement, sur une porte d'armoire, de stock.

Q Quand avez-vous fait ça? R Probablement la semaine dernière où il y a quinze jours.

Par Me.Lajoie: Avec ces renseignements là je ne m'objecte plus à la production.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q Voulez-vous produire ce document comme pièce 70?

R Oui monsieur.

Q C'est une copie d'une affiche? R De l'affiche, du prix du 1000 picks.

Q C'est la compagnie Wayagamack qui a affiché ça dans un endroit public dans ses moulins, et c'est un document que vous avez copié? R Oui.

Q Ce document est destiné à donner quelles informations aux employés? R A nous donner le prix du 1000 picks qu'on fait sur notre ouvrage.

Q Le prix qui est payable à l'ouvrier par 1000 picks?

R D'après le nombre de métiers.

Q D'après les moulins qui sont dans votre département, d'après le nombre de métiers, le nombre de moulin et la variété de coton? R Oui.

Q C'est tout ça qui rentre en cause pour déterminer les prix? R Oui.

Q Me rapportant à cette pièce 70, je vois dans la première colonne de gauche un petit signe qui veut dire "numéros" une petite crois double?

R C'est le nombre de métiers.

Q Ca commence par 10, dans la colonne de gauche le nombre de métiers sur lequel l'ouvriere travaille?

R Oui.

Q Alors la colonne suivante c'est marqué "59 C.A" R.- C'est pas sur l'affiche, c'est moi qui l'ai marqué au crayon, c'est pas censé être mis, c'est un mémoire que je voulais me prendre, je crois que je l'ai mis exprès pour que ça paraisse.

Q Qu'est-ce que c'est? R C'est le style du toton.

Q Est-ce que vous avez pris ça sur l'affiche?

R Non, c'est pas rapporté à l'affiche.

Q Alors je comprends que la deuxième colonne, avec l'enquête qu'il y a au crayon de mine, et qui se lit à la première ligne, 59 C X ça représente d'après vous la qualité du coton? R Le nom du coton.

Q Seulement les détails qui apparaissent à cette colonne au crayon de mine ne sont pas sur la feuille?

R C'est une note que j'ai rajoutée.

Q La troisième colonne débute par le chiffre 799, qu'est-ce que ça veut dire, est $7.99? R $7.99 donne le prix du 1000 picks.

Q C'est $7.99? R Oui.

Q C'est de piastres? R Ou des millièmes de cent.

Q On pourrait mettre un point après le 7 et ça voudrait dire $7.99? R Oui.

Q Ca voudrait dire $7.99 le 1000 picks?

R Oui.

Q Pour dix machines? R Oui.

Q Si on lisait tout l'écrit on dirait que 10 métiers donne $7.99 du 1000 picks, ou pour la surveillance de 10 métiers $7.99, quand le métier marche au speed de 90? R Oüi monsieur.

Q 90 quoi, 90 bouts de navette? R C'est la vitesse du métier.

Q Vous comprenez que c'est la vitesse du métier qui est indiqué là? R Oui.

Q Si la vitesse du métier est speed 100, en dessous de la dernière colonne de droit, vous avez 720, ce qui serait $7.20? R Oui.

Par M le COMMISSAIRE:

Q Encore pour 10 métiers n'est-ce pas? R Oui pour dix métiers.

PAR Me BEAUREGARD:

Q Nous venons n'est-ce pas d'expliquer la première ligne de votre écrit, nous dirions donc que pour un ouvrier qui travaille sur 10 metiers à la vitesse de 90, recevra $7.99 du 1000 picks? R. Oui.

Q. Alors un ouvrier travaillant à la vitesse de 100 recevrait $7.20? R Oui.

Q. Et votre document continue à 11 métiers, 12, 13 métiers.

Par M le Commissaire: Prenons maintenant 20 métiers.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q Dans la colonne de gauche je constate le chiffre de 20, qui veut dire 20 métiers, en regard je trouve le chiffre 377, qu'il faut lire $3.77 du....

R. Du 1000 picks.

Q De sorte que le chiffre de $7.97 du 1000 picks est tombé à $3.77 du 1000 picks? R. Oui.

Q. Et à 20 métiers, vitesse 100, le chiffre de $7.20 le 1000 picks est tombé à $3.39 le 1000 picks?

R Oui.

Q C'est bien ca qu'il y a sur le document?

R Oui, il peut y avoir une différence pour la colonne, qu'elle soit changée de place, sans le savoir.

Q Vous voulez dire que si il y a une correction à faire peut être pour le speed, 100, serait à la place de la colonne de 90? R Oui, monsieur.

Par Me LAJOIE: Comme vous le voyez votre copie est une belle reproduction exacte.

Par Me BEAUREGARD:

Q Maintenant je prends 30 métiers, c'est la dernière ligne. En regard des 30 métiers, à la dernière ligne sous le titre: speed 90, je vois 246?

R $2.46.

Q Nous devons lire $2.46? R Oui.

Q Devons nous comprendre que le 1000 picks qui valait $7.99 avec 10 métiers, ne vaut plus maintenant que $2.46 avec 30 métiers? R Oui.

Q Il faudrait également comprendre je suppose que le chiffre $2.22 vis à vis les 30 métiers, serait le prix de $2.22 pour 1000 picks pour les trente métiers, au speed de 100? R Oui.

Q Est-ce qu'actuellement tout ouvrier qui conduit trente métiers, reçois $2.46 sur un métier à la vitesse de 90 et $2.22 pour trente métiers sur une vitesse de 100? R Oui.

Q Alors qu'un ouvrier qui n'a que dix métiers, reçoit ~~le~~ à la même vitesse de 90 $7.99 le 1000 picks et $7.20 sur les métiers à la vitesse de 100? ROui.

Q Aimez-vous mieux mener 30 métiers ou 10?

R Dix.

Q Est-ce parce que c'est plus facile, plus agréable? R C'est plus facile et plus payant

Q Ce que nous venons de lire n'est pas de l'imagination? R C'est affiché.

Q C'est pas un règlement rien que pour vous, c'est pour tout le monde? R Pour le public.

Q Est-ce que ces affiches là se font depuis longtemps, des affiches de cette nature?

R Ils se font si jeme rappelle bien depuis que le comité industriel est établi, peut être une secousse après.

Q Ca serait un des résultats bon ou mauvais, vous avez pas à la dire encore, du comité industriel?

R Oui.

Q Ca ne se faisait pas avant? Ce sont des confidences publiques de la compagnie aux ouvriers?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Ce sont des confidences publiques de la compagnie aux ouvriers? R Oui monsieur.

Q Savez-vous combien un métier fait de picks par jour? R Un métier qui n'a pas de retardement peut monter à 48 ou 49.

Q Un métier qui marche à plein peut faire 48 à 49 milles picks dans huit heures?

R Oui.

Q C'est l'average des métiers qui vont sans retard? R Oui, le minimum nous demande 42 je pense.

Q Qui demande un minimum de 42? R On a une carte sur les meters, il y a des chiffres dans un rond rouge, et il est spécifié 42 dedans.

Q Sur le métier il y a un appareil pour mesurer?

R Je n'ai pas compté.

Q En même temps sur cet appareil là il y a une indication spéciale? R Une suite de chiffres qui commence, je ne me rappelle pas où, je ne sais pas si c'est 36.

Q C'est destiné à l'ouvrier ça? R Oui, c'est sur le compteur.

Q C'est lui qu' demande une production minimum de?

R C'est marqué 42, c'est ce qui m'a été expliqué, je sais pas pourquoi le cercle est fait et il y a 42 dedans.

Q Qui vous a dit ça? R C'est quelqu'un du moulin, il dit: ce qui est marqué dans le centre ça peut être le minimum qui peut être exigé à peu près

Q Vous venez de dire qu'un métier qui fonctionnait régulièrement, sans retard, peut faire, 48 à 49 milles picks? R En huit heures.

Q Maintenant, quand un métier qui fonctionne normalement fait 48 à 49 milles pickes, mais est-ce que ça arrive qu'il fonctionne sans retard dans la journée? R Ca arrive de temps à autres, on peut les compter.

Q Ordinairement est-ce que ça monte jusque là?

R On peut frapper un métier pour une journée, deux jours, les autres sont toujours plus bas.

Q Etes-vous capable de nous faire une démonstration? Je pourrais dire chiffrer ce que vous nous avez dit, que plus on a de métiers, moins ça paye pour l'ouvrier qui a plus de métiers soms son controle?

Par Me le COMMISSAIRE. Le rendement est plus grand, q'est évident d'après les chiffres.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD:

Q Combien y a-t-il de temps qu'il y a des meters sur les métiers? R Il y en avait quand je suis arrivé, je peux pas dire combien ça fait de temps, je peux pas dire si ça fait un an,un an et demi, ils ont été changés avant ça, avec des compteurs qui marchaient continuellement, depuis qu'on a été mis à trois shifts, ils ont été changés pour des

compteurs qui reculent à chaque quart.

Q. Qui permettent de lire aux ouvriers, qui donnent la permission de lire la production de leur travail?

R. Oui.

Q. C'est mieux que l'autre? R. Oui.

Q. Un affichage de ce tableau a été mis sur les murs, mais avant, saviez-vous comment votre salaire était compté? R. Non.

Q. Vous saviez pas que la proportion et la mesure qu'il y avait? R. D'aucune façon.

Q. Comment votre pays pouvait varier? R. Non.

Q. Avez-vous été un employé permanent, avez-vous perdu beaucoup de temps carrière là-bas?

R. Depuis la dernière installation j'ai pas perdu de temps, c'est à dire ils m'ont pas fait perdre de temps excepté une petite punition je crois.

Q. De quoi? R. C'est à propos d'un baptême.

Q. Vous avez fait baptisé et vous avez été puni pour ça? R. Oui.

Q. Dites-nous ça? R. Il est arrivé un jour j'ai dit à mon formean que les choses allaient pas bien bien chez nous, j'ai dit: si je reçois un téléphone tu m'avertiras au plus tôt. Il m'a dit d'être tranquille, qu'il agirait. Maintenant j'ai fait le quart, j'ai retourné chez nous. Le lendemain ou le surlendemain la chose se répétait, j'ai pas entré...

Q. Vous êtes resté chez vous? R. Oui, on se trouvait sur le quart de nuit si je ne me trompe pas dans le temps. Le lendemain la cérémonie s'est faite et le lendemain soir j'ai pas rentré, parce que j'avais pas de gardien à la maison, j'ai retourné le surlendemain, à ma surprise mon foreman me dit

le boss me dit de te faire loafer pendant huit jours.

Q Vous avez été mis en Vacance pour huit jours?

R Oui, je lui ai demandé pourquoi, il dit c'est à cause que tu as pas demandé à loafer, lui m'a dit que le grand foreman...

Q Qui ça? M.- M. Tootle.

Q Le deuxième qui est-ce? R Celui à qui je me suis adressé c'est Monsieur Jacques.

Q C'est Monsieur Jacques qui vous a dit que vous n'aviez pas parlé à Tootle? R Que je l'avais pas averti, que j'avais pas averti le boss.

Q Comment s'appelle celui à qui vous l'avez dit?

R Jacques.

Q Vous avez dit à Monsieur Jacques, et lui prétend que vous lui avez pas dit à lui même?

R Il prétend que quand je l'ai averti dans les jours précédents, c'était pas un avertissement, moi j'ai prétendu qu'en avertissant mon boss que c'était un avertissement raisonnable.

Q Maintenant Monsieur Matton qu'est-ce qui a rive quand quelque chose se brise sur les moulins? d±e

R D'ordinaire le métier arrêté il faut attendre la réparation.

Q Est-ce que l'ouvrier peut être appelé à payer les réparations?

R Pas pour ma part, pas pour moi même, j'ai pas eu aucun rapport.

Q Avez-vous été témoins de malchances?

R Oui, j'ai vu quelquefois des petits "felines" boys être blamés, sans savoir si c'étaient eux même qui les avaient cassés ou s'ils avaient été cassés sur la run.

Q Qu'est-ce que des felines boys? R Ceux qui passent les navettes dans la batteries à l'extrémité du moulin.

Q Ce sont des petits garçons qui font ça? R Oui.

Q Il est arrivé qu'un morceau a été cassé, et que ça été attribué à ces petits garçons là? R Oui.

Q Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé des petits garçons?

R On les reconsole un peu, il y en a qui ont les larmes proche, ily en a qui m'ont dit que le boss l'avait menacé de le gronder ou de le payer.

Q Avez-vous été témoin? R Au moulin il faut avoir l'oreille collée l'un sur l'autre pour nous parler.

Par Me. LAJOIE.

Q D'où venez-vous? R Je sais de Trois Rivières depuis vingt-quatre à vingt cinq ans.

Q Avant? R De St.Rémi de Tingwick comté d'Arthabaska.

Q Qu'est-ce que vous faisiez? R J'étais cultivateur.

Q Vous avez laissé la terre pour venir vous établir à Trois Rivières? R Oui, à l'age de 14 ans, mais c'est pas moi même qui ai fait le transport.

Q Vous êtes vemu avec vos parents? R Oui.

Q Vous vous êtes marié à Trois Rivières? R Oui.

Q Depuis combien d'années? R Depuis 18 ans.

Q Vous avez une jeune fille qui a maintenant quel âge? R Un fils, qui a 16 ans faits.

Q Est-ce qu'il travaille? R Non.

Q Vous avez une jeune fille qui a quel âge?

R Elle vient d'avoir quinze ans au mois de mars.

Q Est-ce qu'elle travaille? R Pas dans le moment.

Q Est-ce qu'elle a travaillé? R Oui.

Q Où? R A la Wabasso dans le spinning room.

Q Est-ce qu'elle vous aidait à gagner, à la famille?

R Ah oui elle nous rapportait le temps qu'elle travaillait à 12½ cts de l'heure.

Q Elle rapportait sa paye à la maison? R Oui.

Q Est-ce qu'il y a de l'ouvrage à cette heure pour votre jeune fille, à Trois Rivières, ailleurs qu'à la Wabasso? R J'ai jamais offert ma fille en service, à part de la Wabasso.

Q Combien est-ce que ça lui donnait par mois le moins? R On peut pas faire un average au mois, je sais pas si elle a travaillé un mois complet, sans arrêt.

Par M.le COMMISSAIRE:

Q Quel âge avait-elle à ce moment là? R Pour rentrer ils ont exigé un baptistère, et son baptistère lui donnait quatorze ans.

Par Mtre LAJOIE:

Q Quand vous avez fait $38.00,$39.00 de moyenne, combien y a-t-il d'années de ça? R Avant les quarts.

Q En 1935 avez-vous déjà fait $38.00 à $39.00?

R Je peux pas avoir fait ça.

Q Les quarts ont été établis en 1935, et dans l'année 1935, vous avez six mois avant les quarts, vous avez jamais fait $38.00 à $39.00?

R Avant les quarts je me suis trouvé à être sur 22 métiers, dont quatre métiers d'échantillons, je pouvais pas garder mes payes à $35.00.

Q Les métiers d'échantillons sont moins payants que

LES autres?

R Il faut plus d'attention, on est recommandé de passer plus de temps et ils exigent du coton No.1 et des grosseurs de rouleaux pour ne pas avoir de bouts, j'ai fait démancher des manques de une verge et demie de long déjà.

Q Ca diffère un peu de la qualité ou de la sorte de marchandises que vous faites, pour avoir un montant plus ou moins élevé de paye? R Oui, un peu et la quantité de métiers.

Q Il y a vous admettre ça, - c'est une question, que je pourrais dire ne devrait pas se poser - mais je veux que vous répondiez. Il y a plus de 1000 picks dans vingt métiers que dans dix?

R Oui, beaucoup plus de production et moins d'argent.

Q Alors, quand vous avez 20 métiers, vous avez plus de 1000 picks à votre crédit? R Oui.

Q Le percentage d'arret dans vingt métiers est plus considérable dans 20 métiers que dans dix?

R Naturellement, il y a plus de métier sujets à arrêter sur 20 métiers que sur 10.

Q Quand il y a 20métiers qui arrêtent souvent, le métier arrête et vous n'avez pas à travailler sur ce métier pendant plusieurs minutes, souvent vous faites venir un mécanicien qui travaille le métier? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Pendant que le mécanicien travaille ce métier là, vous le laissez et vous vous occupez des autres?

R Oui monsieur.

Q Lorsque vous avez eu votre congé de huit jours, aviez vous averti votre contremaitre que le soir

vous ne rentreriez pas sur votre quart?

R Je dis que je l'ai averti une journée ou deux avant, lui disant que s'il avait un téléphone pour moi de me le dire immédiatement, que les choses allaient mal chez nous, c'est toute la demande que j'ai faite.

Q Vous êtes parti vous êtes allé chez vous, le baptême a eu lieu. Avez-vous téléphone à votre contremaitre de vous faire remplacer le soir par un autre?

R Je n'ai pas le téléphone, et avoir eu le temps d'aller au moulin je l'aurais fait.

Q Vous pouviez lui faire dire? R Oui, on le fait dire, et souvent les nouvelles ne se rendent pas.

Q Reconnaissez-vous que si tout le monde qui font baptisér, qui travaillent à la Wabasso n'avertissait pas, restaient chez eux une couple de jour sans avertir, que ça ferait un tort considérable à la production du moulin, il faudrait arrêter le moulin?

R Il faudrait arrêter aussi de faire baptiser.

Q C'est pas si facile que ça. - Admettez-vous que vous auriez dû avertir votre contremaitre?

R J'ai compris par moi même, qu'en l'avertissant une journée ou deux avant, il était prévenu, du moment même que les choses allait pas bien, et si je restais chez nous c'est parce que les choses allaient pas bien, que les choses allaient mal.

Q Croyiez-vous que du moment que vous partiez, qu'il devait vous remplacer? R Je le suppose.

Q Il devait vous trouver un remplaçant, si vous étiez arrivé au quart de onze heures, vous aviez droit de prendre votre quart? R A sa guise, comme il l'a fait.

Q Si tout le monde faisait ça dans le moulin, croyez-vous qu'il y aurait de la discipline, quand il y a de la maladie, si tout le monde disait, je m'en vais et je reviendrai quand je pourrai?

R Quand on explique le cas, le baptême c'est pas une écharpe.

Q Il me semble que vous auriez pu lui faire dire M. Matton,:que ma femme est moins bien, je suis seul, remplacez moi pour le quart de nuit. R ...

Q Qui vous a remplacé? R Je le sais pas, mais moi je calculais que ma demande était valable.

Q Cette nuit là combien aviez-vous de métiers?

R Si je me rappelle bien, pas au juste, je crois que c'est 14 ou 16.

Q Qui a fait marcher les métiers là pendant cette nuit là? R Je ne sais pas.

Q N'est-il pas vrai que c'est un de vos compagnons?

R C'est probablement un spare ou un homme employé sur d'autres métiers, ils ont pas pris d'hommes en dehors.

Q Vous savez qu'il faut avertir quand on s'absente?

R J'ai prétendu avoir averti.

Q Vous prétendez avoir dit: j'ai de la maladie chez nous, et que ceci serait suffisant de rester chez vous le temps nécessaire? R Pas un temps indéfini. Quand on est sur le quart de nuit, et qu'on a passé la nuit blanche et la journée...

Q Je ne vous blame pas d'être resté chez vous, mais de ne pas avoir averti, et les laisser avoir soin de vos métiers sans savoir quand vous reviendriez?

R Je ne suis pas blamable de ne pas avoir de

téléphone chez nous, je ne suis pas capable de m'en payer un.

Q.- Vous savez où aller téléphoner quand vous en avez besoin? R Oui.

ET le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

(Page 930 follows)

REPRISE DE LA SEANCE

ME BEAUREGARD: M. Matton, par ma faute, peut-être un peu par la vôtre, nous avons corrigé la pièce 70 que vous avez produite ce-mstin, un signe de piastte en haut du chiffre 799. M. Lajoie entre dans la conversation pour dire que c'est aussi un peu sa faute. Il faudrait mettre un zéro? R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce que c 'est $7.99 du mille picks? R. 7 cents, 99 centièmes de cents du 10,000 picks.

Q. J'ai, ici, un calcul que nous allons repasser ensemble. Je suis informé que vous avez, sinon écrit les chiffres, du moins contribué à faire les chiffres? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Le document que j'ai ici, se lit comme suit: "Un métier peut faire 45,000 picks par jour, nous sommes d'accord la-dessus? R. Oui.

Q. 45,000 picks c'est le nombre le plus considérable qui peut se faire? R. Qui peut se faire, pas en général.

Q. Un métier, ça?

ME. LE COMMISSAIRE: Un métier?

ME. BEAUREGARD:

Q. Pour un métier? R. Un métier.

Q. Prenons unmétier de la vitesse de 100. Nous trouvons que chaque métier de 12 métiers rapportera à l'ouvrier, sur la vitesse de 100, 588 millièmes de cent du 5,000picks?

R. D'après ce que je comprends.

Q. Alors, si on multiplie 45,000 picks par 588 millièmes de cent, on trouve qu'à la fin de la journée, le métier a rapporté à l'ouvrier $0.26 et 46/100? (0.264

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. Chaque métier? R. Cheque heure.

PAR ME BEAUREGARDL

Q. Si vous aviez 12 métiers, la journée de l'ouvrier sera onc de 12 fois 26 cents et 46 centièmes?

R. Si c'est basé sur 45,000.

Q. Evidemment, si c'est basé sur 45,000 picks par métier?

R. Oui.

Q. Maintenant, vous nous dites que 45,000 picks pour un métier c'est une bien grosse journée? R. Oui, monsieur, règle générale, elle ne le font pas.

Q. Elles font quoi? R. Le maximum de 42,000, c'est àa peu près sa capacité.

Q. Le maximum fixé par le patron est de 42,000?

R. Souvent moins de 42,000?

Q. De façon, si on voulait se rendre compte du rendement probable d'un bon ouvrier sur la machine, il faudrait prendre 42,000 pomme étant le rendement pratique.?

R. A peu près.

Q. C'est ce qui exigé de la maison? R. Ce qui peut se faire si le métier ne se brise pas en retournant.

Q. S'il y a des inconvénients, ça descend? R. Ca descend.

Q. Si on voulait faire le même calcul sur un métier de la plus haute catégorie, c'est à dire, lorsqu'un ouvrier à dix métiers, il a ce que nous avons appelé 799 millièmes de cent?

R. Oui.

Q. Par 5000 picks?

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: A peu près les 4/5 d'un sous.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Si nous multiplions ce chiffre de 799 millièmes par 45, nous allons trouver le rendement idéal d'un m étier sur dix au plus haut chiffre du rendement, ceci donnerait 3 cents et cinq mille huit cent cinquante-cinq millièmes de cent par métier par jour?

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Ca fait trente-cinq cents.

ME BEAUR GARD: Ca fait trente-cinq cents pour unmétier.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: 10 métier, $3.50.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Un métier donnerait 3 cents, 5855 millièmes de cent par jour? R. Sur un taux de 45,000 picks.

Q. Quatre-vingt-dix est le plus gros rendement possible de l'exhibit 70? R. Rendement idéal.

CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. Pour simplifier tous ces calculs de millièmes, n'est-il pas vrai que vous gagnez 36 cents de l'heure? R. Je Gagnerais 36 cents de l'heure à la condition d'avoir un métier qui n'arrête pas.

Q. Votre moyenne de salaire est pour 7 heures d'ouvrage par jour? R. On fait 8 heures de travail.

Q. N'est-il pas vrai que ça vous donne trente-six cents de l'heure en moyenne? R. Je n'ai jamais calculé mon temps à l'heure, je ne sais pas.

Q. Vous avez jamais fixé ça, comment vous gagnez à l'heure?
R. Non, j'ai pensé à savoir combien de 5,000 picks j'avais au bout de la quinzaine.

Q. Quel a été votre dernière quinzaine que vous avez retirée?
R. Je ne m'en rappelle pas, les payes, j'arrive à la maison, je les donne, je m'occupe pratiquement pas de ce qu'il y a dessus. Pour la dernière quinzaine, on doit avoir retiré $23.00.

Q. Une quinzaine complète? quelle est votre dernière quinzaine complète que vous avez retirée? R. Je ne peux pas vous dire au juste.

Q. Vous ne pouvez pas vous le rappeler? R. Je pourrais vous en citer, de $28.00 de $33.00 comme de $34.00, je ne peux pas vous dire au juste.

Q. Je vais faire comme M. Beauregard, je vais calculer de $28.00 à $34.00, on va faire une moyenne: ça fait trente-une piastre? R. C'est à peu près ce que j'ai dit.

Q. Pour combien d'heures trente-une piastres? R. 96 heures,

de temps en temps, 95 heures, parce qu'il y a une semaine par trois semaines qu'on perd une heure.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: 32 cents de l'heure à ce taux là.

ME LAJOIE: 32 cents de l'heure.

Q. Admettez-vous que vous aviez trente-deux cents de l'heure avec ce calcul là? R. Si c'est arrivé à $31.00 d'average, c'est correct.

BRUNO BOURNIVAL, est assermenté.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. M. Bournival, quel âge avez-vous?

R. 22 ans.

Q. Depuis combien de temps travaillez vous au moulin?

R. Je suis arrêté depuis le 6 mars.

Q. Depuis mars, 1935? R. 1934, après celà, j'ai entré ils m'ont jeté dehors à la grève du mois d'août.

Q. Travaillez-vous depuis le mois d'août 1935.?

R. Le mois d'août?

Q. Depuis le mois d'août, 1935, vous ne travaillez pas, vous n'avez pas été repris? R. Non.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous faisiez avant? R. Dougher dans la Card Room.

Q. Etes-vous marié? R. Je suis garçon.

Q. Garçon,? R. Oui

Q. Combien gagniez vous là? R. J'avais 14 cents de l'heure, au mois de juillet, ça été remonté à 17 cents.

Q. Avez-vous déjà eu plus que celà, 14 cents de l'heure?

R. Dans les premiers temps, quand j'ai entré, en 1929, j'avais dix-huit cents de l'heure.

Q. En 1929, vous aviez 18 cents de l'heure? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Ensuite, vous avez été mis à 14 cents de l'heure?

R. Au bout de deux ans, baissé à 16 cents de l'heure.

Q. Ensuite, encore une autre piastre? R. Encore une autre piastre, à 14 cents.

Q. Ce qui est arrivé à vous, est-ce que c'est arrivé aux autres employés de votre département?

ME LAJOIE: Il me semble que c'est pas la meilleure preuve. On va prendre un jeune garçon pour établir le salaire des employés d'un département par lui. On a demandé tous les documents, nous les avons. On va amener un jeune homme qui va établir la paye d'un département.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Est-ce ça M. Beauregard que vous demandez?

M. BEAUREGARD: Je veux si savoir si c'est accidentel?

RE-EXAMINE PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Avez-vous eu un ouvrage, de moins de frame?

R. Nous en avons plus.

Q. Le montant de votre salaire a été baissé, vous avez eu une augmentation de frames? R. Non, on se trouvait a avoir plus d'ouvrages, il fallait dougher les slobbers, les cleaner.

Q. Le dougher est celui qui pose les bobines, vous étiez dans la card room? R. j'étais dougher.

Q. Vous placiez les bobines après le moulin? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous aviez combien de frame à entretenir? R. Dans les premiers temps ça?

Q. Oui. R. Je pense qu'on avait 30, 32.

Q. Ensuite, combien en avez vous eu. Vous dites que vous avez eu plus d'ouvrage à la fin qu'au commencement. Est-ce parce qu'il y avait moins de monde ou moins de frames?

R. C'est lui qui nous en donnait le plus.

Q. Votre gérant? R. Oui.

Q. Comment s'appelle-t-il le gérant? R. Horace Crankshaw.

Q. Qui était aussi le gérant du département?

R. Ils étaient trois.

Q. Donnez leurs noms? R. M. Williams, Horace Crankshaw, et Chandler.

Q. Combien d'heures travailliez vous par jour?

R. Dans les premiers temps?

Q. Oui dans les premiers temps?

R. 13 heures.

Q. De quelle heure à quelle heure? R. Six heures à sept heures du matin.

Q. Aviez-vous le temps d'aller manger? R. Pantoute, seulement pas une minute.

Q. Pas une minute d'arrêt? R. Pas une minute pour manger.

Q. Vous mangiez pendant la nuit? R. Quand on avait le temps.

Q. Il n'y avait pas de temps compté pour manger? R. Non, il n'y en avait pas.

Q. Est-ce qu'il vous est arrivé de manger en travaillant?

R. C'est arrivé, des fois, on ne mangeait pas pantoute.

(940 suit)

Q Quand vous avez le temps de manger, avez-vous une place pour vous asseoir ?

R On mangeait debout ou assis par terre.

Q Il n'y avait pas une salle, là ?

R Non.

Q A quel temps cela remonte-il ce que vous nous racontez là, cà fait-il un an, deux ans ou trois ans de cela? R. Cà doit faire trois ou quatre ans.

Q Pourquoi avez-vous été renvoyé, vous ?

R Moi, je ne le sais pas.

Q Vous dites que vous avez été renvoyé au mois d'aout ? R. Oui, à la grève.

Q Il ne vous ont pas repris ? R. Non, mais ils en ont repris un autre à ma place.

Q Voulez-vous/dire qu'ils en ont pris des plus jeunes que vous ? R. Oui.

CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR Me LAJOIE:

Q Vous êtes dans l'union, vous étiez dans l'unio des tisserands au mois d'aout ? R. Oui.

Q Avez-vous su que l'union voulait que les garcons qui étaient renvcyés soient remplacés par des hommes mariés, que ce soit des hommes mariés qui prennent leur place ? R. ....

M. le COMMISSAIRE: Il avait été convenu de donner la préférence aux hommes mariés et soutiens de famille, c'est cela, n'est-ce pas ?

Me LAJOIE: Je rèferre, Votre Seigneurie, à l'exhibit 58 par M. Bastien, au premier paragraphe.

M. le COMMISSAIRE: Que parmi ceux-là qui étaient renvoyés, ont les reprendraient tous mais l'on donneraient la préférence aux hommes mariés, c'est cà

que j'ai compris.

Me LAJOIE:

Q Alors, vous avez été remercié de vos services au mois d'aout ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous étiez sur quel quart dans ce temps-là ?

R Dans ce temps-là, j'étais sur le quart de 4 heures à minuit, et de minuit à 4.

Q Combien cà faisait de temps qie vous travailliez pour la compagnie?

R Cà devait faire 5 ans. Je suis rentré là en 1929.

Q Avez-vous travaillé depuis que vous êtes parti de la compagnie ? R. Non, monsieur.

Q Avez-vous cherché de l'ouvrage ailleurs ?

R Oui.

Q Vous n'en avez pas trouvé ? R. Non.

EDGAR COTE est assermenté.

Examiné par Me ELIE BEAUREGARD:

Q Mojsieur Coté, quel age avez-vous ?

R J'ai 22 ans.

Q Vous n'êtes pas marié ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Avez-vous des enfants ? R. J'en ai deux.

Q Depuis combien de temps êtes-vous au moulin ?

R Cela va faire 8 ans au mois d'octobre.

Q Quelle est votre occupation actuelle ?

R Je suis finiseur, je travaille dans la finishing room.

Q Vous faites quoi ? R. Je travaille sur une ma-

chine qui retord le cotonm l'élargi et le met en rouleau ensuite.

Q C'est une machine qui fait tout cela ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous êtes opérateur de la machine ?

R A heure actuelle, je suis helper sur la machine.

Q C'est-à-dire qu'il y a un opérateur et que vous aidez l'opérateur ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Comment cå marche pour votre salaire ?

R Au mille verges.

Q C'est-à-dire que le coton circule à la course et ressort et vous êtes payé pour le nombre de verges qui en sort ? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q Il sort en vitesse ? R. Oui, monsieur

Q Et votre paye est basée sur le nombre de verges qui passent dans la machine ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Combien avez-vous du mille verges ?

R Nous avons .06½ du mille verges.

Q Quel est votre salaire moyen quand vous travaillez plein temps ? R. Quand on travaille 10 heures, cela varie, des journées on va runner 55,000 verges et d'autres journée, on va runner 62,000 verges; cå, c'est des belles journée; il faut avoir du beau coton.

Q Est-ce qu'il y a longtemps que vous avez .06½ du mille verges ?

R Depuis juillet 1935.

Q Avant cela, combien aviez-vous ?

R .08½ du mille verges.

Q Vous avez eu une descente dans les prix ?

R Oui, de deux sous.

Q Vous travaillez 10 heures par jour avec combiend'équipes par jour ?

R Oui, nous avons deux équipes cette semaine, il n'y a seulement qu'une équipe qui a travaillé.

Q C'est-à-drie que depuis quinze jours, ils runnent avec seulement qu'avec une équipe, ils ont oté lé quart de nuit ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Et c'est le quart de jour qui marche,

R Oui,mmonsieur.

Q La semaine passée, vous travailliez de nuit ?

R J'ai travaillé deux semaines de jour et deux semaines de nuit.

Q Vous travaillez actuellement ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous dites que vous avez actuellement, depuis le mois de juillet 1935, .06½ du mille verges et qu'avant vous avez .08½ du mille verges, est-ce que c'est exactement le Même ouvrage ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous étiez le même nombre déhommes ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Combien y a-t-il de temps que vous aviez .08½ du mille verges ?

R Cela fait trois ou quatre ans.

Q Avant cela, vous travailliez sur la machine ?

R Non, dans ce temps-là j'avais 10½ du mille verges.

Q C'est-à-dire qu'il y a trois ou quatre ans vous aviez .10½ et l'on vous a descendu à .08½ et au mois de juillet 1935, ils vous ont baissé à .06½ ? R, Justement.

Q Quelle a été votre dernière paye complète ?

R J'ai retiré $ 34.55.

Q Cela représente combien d'heure de travail ?

R Là, je ne peux pas vous dire.

Q Dois-je comprendre que vous travaillez 10 heures par jour et cela 5 ou 6 jours par semaine ?

R On travaille 5 jours, cela dépend, des fois il y une couple d'heures que l'on ne travaille pas. C'est assez rare qu'on fait 50 heures, on fait toujours 45 ou 47 des fois 42, on a peut-être fait 55 heures des fois.

Q Savez-vous pourquoi votre salaire a été diminué?

R D'après mon opinion c'est parce que je faisais au-dessus que 40 cents de l'heure.

Q Vous parlez lorsque vous aviez .08½ ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q A .08½, calculez-vous que cela fair 40 cents ?

R Cela fait 42 cent et demie.

Q Aujourd'hui combien calculez-vous que vous faites en moyenne de l'heure ?

R 39 ou 40 cents, une journée on va faire $0.37 et le lendemain on va faire $0.40 ou $0.40½.

Q Votre salaire varie autour de cela ?

R Autour de cela.

Q Quand vous dites que vous pensez que votre salaire a été diminué , ils pensaient que vous gagniez trop, c'est votre opinion. R. Oui.

Q Malgré que le salaire ait été diminué, il n'y a pas eu de changement dans l'ouvrage ?

R Non, il n'y a pas eu de changement dans l'ouvrage.

Q Maintnant, monsieur Côté, avez-vous du nettoyage

à faire.

R. Des fins de semaine, on fait le nettoyage à la fin de la semaine.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous nettoyer ?

R. On nettoie la machine toutes les fins de semaine.

Q. Est-ce que cette affaire là prend du temps ?

R. Comme ça ne paye pas, on fait cela un peu vite.

Q Vous vous dépêchez parce que nous n'êtes pas payé durant ce temps là. R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Combien êtes-vous d'employés dans ce département-là ? R. On peut être de 50 à 60 employés.

Q. Quell est votre chef de département ?

R. M. Crock.

Q. Il y a t-t-il un sous-chef ?

R. Oui, on a M.Walker.

Q. Il y a-t-il plus qu'un sous chef ?

R. M. Mirand est le sous chef de nuit.

Q. Le sous-chef est M. Walker, le sous-chef de nuit est M.Mirand et le grand boss du département c'est M.Crock ? R. Oui Monsieur.

CONTRE INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. L'ouvrage à $0.40 de l'heure, à Trois-Rivières, est-ce que ça commenceà être rare à votre connaissance ?

R. Je ne sais pas, j'ai toujours travaillé à la Compagnie.

Q. Vous êtes un membre actif de l'Union.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Etiez-vous un manifestant des démonstrations de l'Union? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q.

Q. Etiez-vous à la station de police, lorsque M. Whitehead était là ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. C'est vous qui avez adressé la parole à M. Whitehead ? R. Moi, et cinq autres.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous disiez, vous ?

R. J'ai dit ce qui m'a été dit de dire.

Q. N'est-il pas vrai que vous vous êtes conduit comme un polisson en insultant M.Whitehead ?

R. Non, Monsieur.

Q. Vous savez ce que je veux dire là,

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. La Compagnie vous a repris pareil ?

R. Oui.

Q. Vous êtes retourné à l'ouvrage ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous n'avez pas été molesté ? R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce vous qui vouliez prendre M. Whitehead et le retourner à Montréal ?

R. Pas moi, les gens.

Q. Les gens ont dit au chef de police, "Prenez M. Whitehead, envoyez-le à Montréal, on ne veut pas le voir ici à Trois-Rivières ".

R. Moi et les autres

REEXAMINE PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Les incidents auxquels M.Lajoie vient de faire allusion ont ~~été~~ été rapportés à l'Union ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous une explication avec le chef de l'Union à ce sujet là ? N. Non Monsieur.

Q. Ni avec M.Bastien ou M. Fortin ?

R. C'est-à-dire qu'il y a eu des explications après.

Q. Qu'est-ce qu'il s'est dit ?

R. C'était fait.

Q. Avez vous été complimenté ? R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Qu'est-ce qu'ils ont dit ? R. qu'estce-que vous vouliex qu'ils disent, c'était fait.

Q. Ont-ils dit quelque chose ? R. Certainement, il en a été question à l'assemblée générale.

Q. Qu'est-ce qui s'est dit ? R. Ils m'ont désapprouvé à l'assemblée générale.

(Page 955 suit:)

ALZEE BASTIEN , témoin réentendu.

Par Mtre Beauregard.

Q Sous le serment que vous avez prêté, étiez-vous présent à la Cour à la cloture de la séance?

R Oui,monsieur.

Q Durant le témoignage de Monsieur Coté? R Oui.

Q Et surtout à la fin du témoignage? R Oui.

Q Vous avez entendu en re examen par Mtre Lajoie, au sujet de l'incident regrettable qui s'est produit à la dernière grève de Trois Rivières, auquel M. Coté aurait été mêlé? R Oui monsieur.

Q Etiez-vous là vous? R Non, j'étais pas présent à la démonstration.

Q Vous n'étiez pas présent à la démonstration?

R Oui.

Q En avez-vous entendu parler? R Lorsqu'on m'a appris qu'il ~~j~~ avait une démontration j'ai envoyé quatre personnes pour arrêter l'affaire.

Q Où est-ce que ça se passait? R Tout près de l'hotel de ville.

Q Vous avez envoyé quatre personnes? R Oui.

Q Qui? R Morrissette et d'autres, je leur ai dit de sauter dans la machine et d'aller arrêter cela.

Q Ce sont les instructions que vous avez données?

R Oui, et de tous se rendre à la salle.

Q Au nom du comité? R Oui au nom du comité exécutif.

Q A la salle d'assemblée? R A la salle d'assemblée de l'union.

Q A quelle distance du lieu,du poste de police?

R A peu près 1000 pieds.

Q Vos émissaires ont-ils réussi à ramener les

gens chez vous? R Oui.

Q Le groupe s'est rendu à la salle? R Oui.

Q Là avez-vous constaté quel avait pu être l'incident? R On m'a raconté ce qui s'était passé.

Q Qu'est-ce que l'exécutif ou même, qu'est-ce que vous avez fait ou dit?

R J'ai réprimandé très sévèrement tous ceux qui y avaient participé à cette chose là, que ce n'était pas dans notre domaine de dicter à la Wabasso qui devait être gérant ou président, ou autres.

Q Est-ce que l'incident qu'on vous a rapporté à la salle, comme vous dites, est-ce que ça duré quelque temps? R A peu près une heure.

Q Y avait-il plusieurs personnes de présentes?

R A peu près 500 au delà.

Q Savez-vous si Monsieur Coté, le témoin, y était?

R Il nous a rejoint là à la salle.

Q Il a fini par arriver là? R Oui.

Q Ce que vous avez dit, l'avez-vous dit en présence des personnes présentes à l'incident Coté?

R Je crois qu'ils étaient tous présents, parce que les instructions étaient de se rendre à la salle.

Q Vous avez désapprouvé immédiatement?

R Oui, j'ai réprimandé sévèrement, et je leur ai dis que je ne voulais plus que cette chose se renouvelle~~s~~ car je résignerai~~t~~ immédiatement.

Par Mtre LAJOIE.

Q Vous ne savez pas si M. Coté a été suspendu, comme membre de l'union, comme résultat de sa conduite? R Je le sais pas, mais apparemment non.

Et le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

LOUIS PHILIPPE FORTIN, témoin réentendu.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD

Q Sous le serment que vous avez prêté, vous êtes président de la section 2467, si je me souviens bien, des ouvriers unis? R Oui monsieur.

Q Avez-vous assisté ce matin à la fin du témoignage du témoin Coté? R Oui.

Q Etiez-vous ici quand Monsieur Coté, un des membres de l'Union a été entendu? R Oui.

Q Avez-vous entendu le récit d'un incident désagréable qui se serait produit sur la place publique, et à laquelle aurait été mêlé le témoin Coté et M. Whitehead? R Oui monsieur.

Q Etiez-vous sur les lieux de la place publique, vis à vis de la station de police? R Non, monsieur.

Q Avez-vous entendu parler de cet incident dans le cours de la journée? R A l'incident même.

Q Avez-vous entendu parlé de ce qui s'était passé? R Oui.

Q La même journée? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Où étiez-vous à ce moment là? R J'étais je crois dans ce temps là sur la rue St.François Xavier, ou à l'autre bout, dans ces alentours là.

Q Vous vous êtes rendu aux salles de l'Union comme M.Bastien vient de le dire, où se sont réunis un grand nombre de membres de l'Union? R Oui.

Q Sur son appel? R Je n'étais pas à l'appel, j'avais de l'ouvrage à faire dans l'autre bout, quand je suis arrivé à l'hotel St.Maurice, on m'a dit que M.Bastien était à la salle, je me suis rendu à la salle.

Q

Q A-t-il été question devant vous de l'incident?

R Oui.

Q Savez-vous dans quel sens l'incident a été commenté par M.Bastien et les personnes responsables de l'union? R Bien durement.

Q Dans quel sens? R Il voulait plus que ces choses là se fassent, que c'était pas la manière de l'union d'agir de même, que lui même si ça continuait qu'il résignerait comme organisateur, et on s'arrangerait nous autres mêmes.

Q Personnellement avez-vous approuvé ou désapprouvé la conduite de M.Bastien? R J'ai approuvé M. Bastien, comme président de l'Union.

Q En public? R Oui.

Q Y avait-il beaucoup de monde là? R Environ... la salle était pleine 475 à 500.

Par Me.FRANCOIS LAJOIE;

Q Vous venez de déclarer que M.Coté était un de vos organisateurs de l'Union, parce que vous avez dit que lui même il résignerait comme organisateur?

R Pas M.Coté, M.Bastien.

Q Vous vouliez faire allusion à M.Bastien? R Oui.

Q Et non pas de M.Coté? R On me parlait de M.Bastien.

Et le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

ALPHONSE MORRISSETTE.

Lequel témoin est assermenté.

Interrogé par Mtre BEAUREGARD.

Q Quel âge avez-vous M.Morrissette? R 32 ans.

Q Etes-vous marié? R Oui monsieur.

Q Avez-vous des enfants? R Non monsieur.

Q Vous travaillez au moulin? R Oui.

Q Depuis longtemps? R Depuis deux ans et demi.

Q Quel est votre emploi? R Poseur de warp.

Q Depuis combien de temps faites-vous cet ouvrage là?

R Depuis octobre dernier.

Q Avant ça quel était votre genre d'emploi?

R Tisserand.

Q Quel est votre salaire actuel? R 32 cts. de l'heure.

Q Etes-vous payé à l'heure? R Oui, à l'heure et un bonus.

Q C'est la première fois que j'entends parlé de ça?

R C'est à dire un surplus de production, je ne sais quoi.

Q Avez-vous déjà touché le bonus? R Oui, $1.00, $1.50, par quinze jours.

Quand? R La semaine dernière particulièrement.

Q Ceci est sujet à un bonus si la production est bonne? R Oui, je suppose.

Q Que doit-elle faire la production pour faire le bonus? R On m'a dit que c'était sur un surplus de production, je ne sais pas.

Q Production de quoi? R Des tisserands.

Q Vous êtes en quelque sorte solidaire des tisserands, quand à la production? R Oui.

Q C'est à dire, plus vite vous posez votre warp

plus la production se fait vite, comment? R Oui.

Q Ca peut être autrement aussi? R Oui, c'est comme on expliquait, quand la production est en haut de 87%, on nous accorde un bonus.

Q C'est à dire qu'elle doit être au moins de 87?

R D'après ce que je comprends.

Q Vous avez pas de notions précises? R Non.

Q Ca vous a pas été dit par les personnes qui pourraient vous le dire? R Je l'ai demandé et on m'a dit que c'était impossible de le dire.

Q C'était un secret? R Oui.

Q En tous cas 87% c'est quoi? R On nous demande 87, si on a 87 on a nos salaires, si c'est en haut on a un certain percentage.

Q Autrement dit, si tout le moulin marche d'une façon idéale, il produirait 100%? R Impossible.

Q J'admets. Mais c'est le point de mesure?

R Très bien.

Q On exige pas l'idéal, on dit 87%. Est-ce que c'est beaucoup dans les conditions actuelles?

R Dans quelque sections c'est trop et dans d'autres c'est beaucoup.

Q C'est un maximum et un minimum? R Pour un groupe de métiers.

Q Est-ce un minimum obligatoire? R Il n'y a pas de minimum obligatoire.

Q Comment, quel est le minimum? R C'est à dire que pour avoir une production, un homme est supposé produire, qu'un homme est supposé produire, la compagnie recommande 87.

Q Est-ce qu'on dit je suppose, qu'un ouvrier

qui ne produit pas 87...

Par Mlle COMMISSAIRE.

Il est payé à l'heure lui.

Par Mtre BEAUREGARD.

Q Quelque soit le rendement? ROui.

Q C'est votre bonus qui est attaché à la production qui dépasse 87? R Oui.

Q Ce que vous me dites de 87, c'est ce que les tisserands doivent produire? R Oui.

Q Supposez qu'ils le produiraient pas qu'est-ce qui arrive? R On examine leur cas, on voit à ce que la production soit plus haut, on cherche à trouver le mal.

Q Vous avez été tisserand déjà? R Oui.

Q Ca fait combien de temps que vous êtes à l'heure?
R Octobre.

Q Qu'est-ce que vous gagnez comme moyenne de vos gages; Qu'est-ce que c'est? R $30.80 je pense bien par quinze jours.

Q Ca représente combien d'heures? R 96 heures.

Q Ca vous donne $30.80? R Oui.

Q Avez-vous déjà eu plus que ça dans le métier que vous avez là? R J'ai retiré $32.55 je crois.

Q Avec le bonus? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Grace au bonus? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Avez-vous déjà eu plus que 30 cts de l'heure?
R Quand j'étais tisserant sur les grands métiers, dans la St.Maurice Basement, je crois que j'ai retiré jusqu'à $34.00 par quinze jours.

Q Quelle espèce de jours, est-ce que ce sont des jours de dix heures ou des jours de huit heures?

R Des jours de huit heures.

Q Comme tisserant avez-vous constaté si c'était avantageux d'avoir beaucoup de métiers? R Ce n'est pas un avantage.

Q Vous avez entendu le témoignage rendu par M.Matton et les autres? R Oui monsieur.

Q Et est-ce que ces gens là ont exprimé votre opinion?

R Assez bien.

Q Etes-vous le monsieur Morrissette dont monsieur Bastien a demandé de ramener à la salle les personnes qui se trouvaient à la station de police? R Oui.

Q Dans l'incident Coté-Whitehead? R Oui.

Q Racontez ce que M.Bastien a dit et a fait?

R Nous étions à l'hotel Commercial je crois, alors que nous avons appris qu'un mouvement se faisait, on s'est empressé de demander quelle sorte de mouvements, ils ont dit: ils vont à la station de police, qu'est-ce qu'ils vont faire là? on dit: je le sais pas. M.Bastien a dit va voir vivement ce qui se passe. J'ai été chercher une machine, ça m'a pris une heure, et là j'ai demandé aux gens, que faites-vous, ils ont dit: on le sait pas, j'ai dit: vous le savez pas, j'ai dit, vous savez que je suis officier, et la seule affaire à faire c'est de retourner à la salle pour régler ça, là j'ai fait le tour, on était plusieurs, on a retourné à la salle, je suis revenu à l'hotel, et j'ai monté à la salle moi même.

Q Avez-vous entendu ce que M.Bastien a dit aux personnes présentes? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Avez-vous entendu le témoignage de M.Bastien tantot?

R Oui,monsieur.

Q Corroborez-vous ce que Monsieur Bastien a déclaré, a dit à ce moment là? R Monsieur Bastien a ré;rimandé les gens sévèrement, même nous l'avons appuyé?

Q Vous l'avez appuyé? R Oui monsieur.

Q Vous désapprouviez ce qui c'était passé?

R On a désapprouvé les gens d'avoir agi sans nous avertir , surtout sans nous le dire.

Q S'ils vous avaient dit qu'il s'en allait faire ça qu'est-ce que vous auriez fait? R On les aurait arrêté.

Par Me.LAJOIE:

Q Monsieur Alphonse Morrissette, est-ce le même homme qui est mentionné dans l'exhibit 49, Alphonse Morrissette,un des représentants de l'exécutif de l'Union du travail des tisserands, dont je vois le nom sur l'exhibit. Alphonse Morrissette qui est employé au département du tissage? R C'est bien mon nom, mais pas représentant l'union des tisserands.

Q Je veux pas dire représentant, mais employé au département? R Très bien.

Q Vous êtes dans l'exécutif de l'Union vous?

R Oui,monsieur.

Q Vous restez à Trois Rivières depuis combien d'années Monsieur Morrissette? R Trois ans.

Q Avant où restiez-vous? R Voulez-vous dire partout où j'ai resté, ou immédiatement avant?

Q Reculer avec le temps, souvent on avance avec le temps, mais reculer... où étiez-vous avant d'arriver ici? R A Boston, Mass.

Q Etiez-vous habitué aux unions par là? R Assez au courant des unions.

Q Vous avez de l'expérience? R Pas beaucoup.

Q Faisiez-vous partie de l'union à Batiscan? R Non.

Q Avez-vous déjà travaillé pour la compagnie Aluminum aux Etats Unis? R Oui.

Q.-Quand avez-vous laissé la compagnie? R J'ai laissé la compagnie, c'est a dire, on m'a démis, je ne suis pas positif si c'est en 1930 ou 1931.

Q Ils vous ont démis? R Ils m'ont, comme on dit en bon canayen, slaqué.

Q Vous avez resté à Montréal? R J'ai jamais resté à Montréal.

Q Vous êtes jamais resté à Montréal? R Non, Monsieur.

Q Vous restez à Trois Rivières dans le moment?

R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous avez commencé à travailler au moulin à quelle date, à Trois Rivières? R Dans le mois de juillet il y a trois ans.

Q En 1933? R Je suppose.

Q Vous êtes entré à quel salaire? R Les salaires dans ce temps là, la première paye, j'ai retiré $19.20 pour 12 jours d'ouvrage.

Q Quel était le travail que vous faisiez?

R M'opérais six métiers anglais, six ou huit, je ne suis pas positif, pardon, je ne me souviens pas si c'est huit ou six.

Q Quand votre salaire a-t-il été porté à 32 cts de l'heure, il y a combien de temps? R Depuis le mois d'octobre.

Q Avant ça vous touchiez comment? R Je touchais depuis avril entre $30.00 et $31.00 par quinze jours.

Q Avez-vous figuré combien ça donnait de l'heure?

R Je crois que Monsieur Beauregard l'a figuré, moi je l'ai pas figuré.

Q Vous dites qu'on vous demande une production de 87%, est-ce que c'était les contremaitres qui vous disait qu'il faudrait bien produire 87%?

R C'est marqué sur les machines, je ne suis pas positif si c'est 87 ou 85, je crois que c'est 87, c'est à dire que sur le rapport du tableau on demande 87.

Q Il y a un tableau qui demande aux ouvriers de bien vouloir tacher de produire tel percentage de la machine?

R Le tableau que je vous mentionne nous dit la production de la semaine, du mois et de l'année précédents.

Q C'est pour vous encourager ça?   R Je le crois, je le sais pas, moi ça m'encourage.

Q A quel endroit ce tableau indiquant les différentes productions que les machines donnent? Dans votre département, vous parlez du département du tissage?

R A la St.Maurice Draper elle est affiché sur le ur en tournant à droite.

Q Les employés sont en état de voir quelle productions ils font?   R Quelle production, quel percentage de production, Oui.

Q C'est affiché ça?   R Oui.

Q Maintenant, vous avez parlé d'un sec et tout à l'heure, est-ce qu'il y a un secret à ce sujet?

R J'ai tout sorti mon algèbre, et mon arithmétique, c'est vrai que je suis pas bien fort.

Q Vous avez des inspecteurs?   R Oui.

Q Qui ont plus d'expérience que vous?   R Oui.

Q Ils vous ont dit que les calculs avaient été faits et que ça donnait tel percentage?

R C'est à dire j'ai jamais persisté à savoir, seulement j'ai demandé tout bonnement où venait le présent ou le bonus de la $1.00, $1.50 ou $2.00 que j'avais dans ma paye, on m'a donné un bon sourire et on m'a dit prends là.

Q Ils étaient satisfaits de votre production?

R Oui.

Q Vous l'aviez pas demandé ce bonus là? R Non.

Q Il vous a été donné généreusement? R On l'a cru, souvent on demande d'avoir plus d'argent et je voulais savoir si on m'avait augmenté de l'heure.

Q Vous vouliez savoir si c'était régulier?

R Oui, on aime bien ça.

Q Vous dites que votre dernière paye régulière pour une quinzaine a été de $30.80? R $32.80, je ne suis pas positif pour les sous.

Q Alors $32.80 pour 96 heures, pour combien d'heures d'ouvrage, le savez-vous? R 96 heures.

Q Vous êtes-vous jamais demandé combien ça vous donnait de l'heure? R J'ai dit que ça me donnait 32 cts, plus le bonus qui n'est pas régulier.

Q Ca vous donne 32 cts de l'heure, et une fraction?

R Très bien.

Q Pour combien d'heure d'ouvrage? R 96 heures.

Q Et quand vous avez déjà fait plus que $30.80 il y a combien de temps de ça? R A partir du mois de.... quand les quarts ont commencé, du mois d'avril au mois d'octobre.

Q Combien avez-vous fait en moyenne? R $31.00.

Q Votre salaire n'a pas beaucoup varié?

R Ca fait pas longtemps qu'il varie pas, seulement depuis le mois d'avril, que je travaille sur les grands métiers, avant ça je travaillais sur les métiers anglais.

Q Etait-ce bien payant? R Pas toujours, on a retiré $19.00 $20.00 par quinze jours.

Q Combien en aviez-vous de métiers? R Six, huit, quatre, ça dépend.

Q Travailler sur les métiers anglais c'était pas payant? R Des métiers de quatre, des sets de métiers de quatre pieds, c'est plus que les sets de 33 qu'on a aujourd'hui.

Q Travaillez-vous aujourd'hui sur un plus grand nombre de métiers, et est-ce plus payant que les métiers anglais? R Je retirais $31.00 $32.00 et quand j'ai travaillé sur les sets de 33 je retirais $28.00 et $29.00.

Q Sur les nouveaux métiers, sur combien de métiers travaillez-vous, les nouveaux, le plus de métiers que vous avez eus? R Trente-trois.

Q Et vous avez retiré le plus sur les 33 métiers, combien? R Le plus que j'ai retiré, c'est $30.

Q Et le plus que vous avez retiré sur les métiers anglais c'est? R $32.00, c'e t une exception.

Par Me.BEAUREGARD.

Q Avez le bonus? R Non on avait pas de bonus dans ce temps là.

Par Me LAJOIE:

Q Quand vous avez plus de métiers à avoir soin,vous avez plus de métiers qui manquent, qui ont besoin des soins des mécaniciens? R Oui.

Q Et quand ils ont besoins des soins du mécanicien, vous n'avez pas à vous en occuper, le métier

arrête? R Très bien.

Q Sur vingt métiers, combien y aura-til de fois dans une journée, en moyenne, combien de métiers peuvent arrêter sur vingt? R Je ne suis pas capable de préciser, sur vingt métiers d'après les quelques années d'expérience, je mettrais une average de un métier d'arrêté.

Q Un métier sur vingt? R Oui, d'après mon expérience.

Q Et en proportion, si vous en avez quarante vous en avez deux d'arrêtés? R Oui, plus la proportion est grande plus il y en a d'arrêtés.

Q Plus il y en a d'arrêtés, moins on a à s'en occuper? R Et moins ça nous paye.

Q Etes-vous allé à l'incident de la station de police, dont on a parlé ce matin? R Je regrette de dire que j'ai jamais été là.

Q Vous avez vu le chef? R Non, je n'ai pas eu l'occasion de le voir.

Q Je vous souhaite de continuer de n'y jamais allé?
R J'espère bien.

Q Vous avez pas eu connaissance des altercations?
R Quand ils sont venus me le dire.

Q Ce qui s'est passé à la station de police, lorsque vous êtes arrivé est-ce que les gens commençaient à se mettre en parade pour revenir? R J'ai rejoint les gens qu'à la station de police, sur la rue Champlain.

Q Est-ce qu'ils étaient encore en masse devant la station de police, ou en parade? R La masse était assez forte.

Q A combien l'évaluez-vous cette masse là?

R C'est très difficile à dire.

Q A l'oeil M.Morrissette? R A l'oeil c'est très difficile de faire rapport à l'oeil.

Q Au meilleur de votre connaissance,et avec l'aide des yeux que vous aviez ce jour là? R Quand j'ai passé j'aurais cru voir de 450 à 500, maintenant je ne suis pas positif que ce soit ni plus ni moins, parce que je ne suis pas compteur.

Q Vous n'êtes pas habitué à calculer les foules?

R Non.

Par Me.BEAUREGARD.

Q Dites donc Monsieur Morrissette, êtes-vous de l'opinion qu'un ouvrier qui a beaucoup de métier à tisser au moulin de la Wabasso fait plus d'argent que celui qui en a un nombre moindre? R Mais non.

Q Par exemple un témoin ce matin a dit, qu'il avait eu 80 jusqu'à 114 métiers, et faisait moins d'argent que quand il en avait 24? R Ca c'est avant mon temps, 114, 80, j'ai jamais vu ça, comme ça marche à l'heure actuelle plus vous avez de métier, moins vous avez par 1000 picks.

Q C'est ça l'affaire, plus vous avez de 1000 picks, moins d'argent du 1000 picks? R Absolument.

Q Plus le tarif qui sert à la paye est bas?

R Très bien.

Q C'est ce que vous voulez dire? R Oui.

Q Quand on parle de la production de 85%, 87%, M.Lajoie disait que c'était votre contremaitre qui vous disait: tachez de bien vouloir s'il vous plait produire, est-ce comme ça que ça se passe?

R Non,on a une carte que le compteur, sur le compteur l'efficacité est marqué 85%, avec le montant de picks que le métier peut produire, et c'est cerclé

en rouge.

Q Vous avez compris que c'était ce qui était exigé par l'employé? R Oui, ils ont dit que c'était une moyenne qu'un ouvrier pouvait faire.

Q On a parlé de vos contremaitres, qui est-ce dans votre département? R Voulez-vous dire, contremaitre général ou autres.

Q Commençons par le général? R M.Tootle.

Q Les autres? R Arthur Jacques.

Q Y en a-t-il un autre? R Je crois qu'on a un inspecteur, M.Schole.

Et le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

" ALPHONDOR SAVOIE "

Lequel témoin est assermenté:

Interrogé par Mtre BEAUREGARD:

Q M.Savoie, quel âge avez-vous? R 22 ans.

Q Etes-vous marié ou garçon? R Garcon.

Q Depuis combien de temps travaillez-vous au moulin?

R Cinq ou six ans environ.

Q Quelles sont vos fonctions? R Je travaille dessus la card room, dessus les cardes.

Q Qu'est-ce que vous faites vous? R Helper sur la strip.

Q Vous travaillez à enlever la poussière qui s'accumule en dedans de la carde? R Oui, et j'attache les brins. Le helper attache les brins, j'arrête les machines, moi là et puis les autres passent avec une machine un rouleau, et ensuite moi j'attache les brins en arrière.

Q Vous avez combien de machine comme ça? R On travaille sur 170 machine, mais je suis pas seul,on est trois hommes pour ça.

Q Ca prend combien de temps par machine? R Ca prend à peu près striper une carde 9 à 10 minutes, on commence à 11 heures moins 10, pour commencer la première strip, on fini vers une heure et demie.

Q C'est à dire vous commencer à travailler le soir? R A onze heures du soir.

Q Vous êtes par en retard pour commencer, vous êtes en avant de votre temps? R Oui,pour avoir le temps de manger.

Q Vers 11 heures moins cinq vous commencez le quart de 11 heures? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Vous faites le tour de vos machines, et vous finissez à une heure et demie? R Oui.

Q Quand vous avez fini avec la derniere,qu'est-ce que vous faite? R On mange un petit peu, et là on se repose là.

Q Vous allez dans la salle à manger? R Non, dans la première place qu'on peut trouver.

Q Quelle espèce de plade trouvez-vous? R Moi, je mange dans la picker room, c'est moins sale là.

Q C'est moins sale chez le voisin que chez vous? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Vous avez rien du tout pour vous asseoir? R Non.

Q Combien de temps êtes-vous arrêté de travailler pour manger? R On arrête,ça nous donne 15 à 20 minutes.

Q Et vous recontinuez? R On recommence l'autre à deux heures moins dix, on fait une strip, on fini à quatre heures moins vingt-cinq.

Q En faites-vous une autre? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Vous ne mangez pas après la deuxième strip?

R On a pas grand temps, on charrie du coton dans la mule room.

Q Il y a quelque chose à faire dans l'intervalle?

R Oui.

Q Vous commencez une troisième strip quand? En Bommencez-vous une autre? R Oui.

Q Vous travaillez de 11 heures du soir à 7 heures du matin? R Oui, l'autre on commence à quatre heures moins dix.

Q Combien ça paye ça? R 22 cts de l'heure.

Q Vous faites huit heures? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Quelle a été votre dernière paye? R Je crois que c'est $13.65, ils doivent avoir l'enveloppe ici.

Q Pour quinze jours? R Non, huit nuits, soixante-deux heures.

Q Avez-vous des enveloppes vous? R Non j'en ai pas une, mais M.Fortin va les apporter.

Q Avez-vous déjà gagner plus que ça à ces métiers là? R Non monsieur.

Q Quand vous étiez sur douze heures, quel était le tarif? R Dans ce temps-là je doughais les cardes, je runnais les cannes, je runnais trente machine et je gagnais 18 cts de l'heure.

Q Voulez-vous prendre connaissance d'une enveloppe de payer que je vous exhibe portant le No.566, au montant de $13.65, avec à gauche, 62, qui est je présume le nombre d'heure, et me dire si le nom Alphondor Savoie,c'est vous? R Oui,monsieur.

Q C'est la paye dont vous venez de parler? R Oui, monsieur.

Q Voulez-vous produire cette enveloppe comme pièce 71 R Oui monsieur.

EXHIBIT 71. Enveloppe de paye de Alphondor Savoie, No.566, montant $13.65, indiquant à gauche 62, le nombre d'heures.

Q Est-ce qu'il y a déjà eu des bancs pour manger? R Quand j'ai rentré au moulin, on en avait dans la card-room.

Q Qu'est-ce qu'ils sont devenus? R Ils sont partis d'un bord et l'autre.

Q Ils n'ont pas été remplacés? R Non.

Q C'est pas vous qui les avez porté en dehors? R Non.

Q Y a-t-il un endroit quelconque pour se changer? R Moi, où je travaille, je me change dans le picker room, on a une armoire, je serre mon linge là.

Q Y a-t-il une place pour se changer? R On se changeait là, c'est rien que des hommes qui sont là.

Q Vous vous changiez dans la salle? R Oui.

Q Est-ce qu'il fait chaud? R C'est plus chaud que sur les carâs où je travaille, mais on mange moins de poussière.

Q Pas besoin d'être assis pour ça? R Non.

Q En été fait-il chaud pas mal? R L'été on peut poigner des journées de 80 à 90 degrés d'après ce que je peut voir, de chaleur.

Q Tout le monde a-t-il le même salaire, le même prix chez vous, dans ce métier? R Non, je suis marié et je gagne $22 cts et d'autres sont mariés et gagne 22 cts aussi, d'autres gagnent 25 cts, moi ils m'ont mis dehors parce que je me suis

marié et que je gagnais pas 25 cts de l'heure.

Q Vous ne travaillez plus? R Non, je travaille plus.

Par M.le Commissaire?

Q Pourquoi? R Ils m'ont envoyé parce que je me suis marié.

Par Me.BEAUREGARD:

Q C'est à dire que vous vous êtes marié sans gagner 25 cts de l'heure? R Oui.

Q Vous aimeriez autant gatner 25 cts de l'heure?
R Oui.

Q Avez-vous demandé au bosse la permission de vous marier? R. Oui, il m'a dit d'aller voir M. Hagger, j'ai été le trouver, j'ai dit que M.Greenshaw m'envoyait à lui.

Q Votre boss ça M.Greenshaw? R Oui.

Q Il vous a envoyé voir M.Hagger, pour avoir votre licence de mariage? R Oui monsieur, il me l'a pas donné, il a dit qu'il y avait un autre type qui s'était marié un mois ou deux avant et qu'il le gardait sur la même ouvrage que moi.

Q Vous a-t-il défendu de vous marier? R Il m'a dit que c'était la loi, que tout employé, tout homme marié devait avoir 25 cts de l'heure.

Q Il faut pour se marier faire augmenter son salaire? R Oui.

Q On donne la préférence aux gens mariés, quand les jeunes gens de 22 ans, qui ne sont pas marié, quand on leur donne pas 25 cts, et on ne leur donne pas, il ne faut pas se marier, ne pas aider au soutien de votre famille, et vous pour vous être marié, ils vous ont mis dehors? R Oui,monsieur.

R J'ai demandé pour quelles raisons ils pouvaient garder l'autre au même prix que moi, qu'il était marié, il m'a dit qu'on avait fait une exception pour lui.

Q Ca vous donne plus de temps pour votre famille?

R Oui.

Q Avez-vous demandé qui vous remplacait? Ou plutot avez-vous demandé qu'ils vous reprennent? R Oui, j'ai été voir M.Hagger quand j'ai retiré ma paye, je lui ai dit que j'étais marié, que j'avais plus besoin de gagner qu'auparavant, il m'a dit la première chance qu'il aurait une job à 25 cts de l'heure, qu'il me le ferait dire.

Q Qu'il vous le ferait dire? R Oui,monsieur.

Q Est-ce que tout le monde a 22 cts de l'heure dans votre département, ou si la plus grande partie ont 25 cts de l'heure? R Non, mon métier c'est un métier de 22 cts de l'heure.

Q Est-ce que c'est affiché avec le reste, sur les murs que les gens qui n'ont pas 25 cts ne peuvent pas se marier? R Il y a rien du tout là, j'en ai pas vu d'affiche toujours.

Q Avez-vous eu connaissance que c'était un règlement de la maison? R J'en ai entendu parler, mais j'en vois travailler d'autres à coté de moi qui sont mariés et qui gagnent le même prix que moi.

Q Est-ce parce qu'ils font des cadeaux de noces, qu'on l'exige? R Ca l'air à ça.

Par Mtre LAJOIE:

Q Combien êtes-vous dans votre département?

R Je suis seul.

Q Vous faites cet ouvrage là depuis combien d'années? R C'est à dire helper sur les strips, ça fait à peu près, on peut dire depuis que ça commencé les quarts.

Q Depuis le cours du mois d'août dernier? Oui.

Q Avant? R Je travaillais, je doughais les cardes, charriait les cannes.

Q Combien faisiez-vous d'heure? R 12 à 13 heures.

Q C'est le même genre d'ouvrage à peu près? R Oui.

Q Et vous travailliez 13 heures? R Oui.

Q Actuellement, vous faites le même genre d'ouvrage, et vous travaillez sept à huit heures? R 8 heures.

Q Vous travaillez 13 heures, pour votre genre d'ouvrage est-ce fatiguant? R Quand on travaille sur les cardes c'est fatiquant.

Q Quand on travaille sept heures, c'est une amélioration de son sort? R Pas mal.

Q Au point de vue travail? R Oui.

Q Au point de vue salaire, combien faisiez-vous quand vous travailliez 13 heures? R Dans ce temps là, je gagnais $23.40 par quinze jours, 18 cts de l'heure.

Q Quand vous travailliez 13 heures vous gagniez 18 cts de l'heure? R Oui.

Q Là vous travaillez sept à huit heures et vous gagnez combien de l'heure? R 22 cts.

Q Combien sur votre ouvrage pouvez-vous, ou combien de minutes pouvez-vous être sans travailler sur l'ouvrage, par espèce de temps de une quart d'heure, une fois 20 minutes, une autre fois? R Ca doit donner l'espace de une heure, d'après ce que e peux voir.

Vous travaillez un quart de huit heures, et

et dans ce corps de huit heures, vous avez par espaces de 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, selon le temps, une heure que vous pouvez avoir à rien faire?

R Dans l'espace de huit heures.

Q Vous avez une heure de repos? R Oui.

Q Espacée par 10,15,20 minutes, ça varie?

R Ca peut aller partout à trois-quarts d'heure.

Q En réalité vous êtes occupé sept heures par jour?

R Huit heures par jour, on est occupé à l'ouvrage sept heures.

Q Vos mains et vos pieds marchent pendant sept heures? R A peu près.

Q Une salle à diner, on en parle souvent, vous êtes censé bien connaitre l'usine, vous autres les employés, où la placeriez vous dans ce moulin là? R Je peux pas voir, c'est pas mal rempli de machines.

Q Est-ce que votre salle à diner, vous en mettriez une dans toutes les étages, ou si vous en mettriez une au cinquième et une dans le rez de chaussée?

R C'est pas moi qui runne ça.

Q S'ils vous consultaient, vous semblez vous intéresser beaucoup au confort du moulin, si vous avez une suggestion à faire à la compagnie, où la placeries-vous la salle à diner? R Il y aurait pas grand place dans la card-room.

Q Il faudrait que vous laissiez votre ouvrage pour aller dans un autre endroit du moulin?

R Il faudrait ça.

Q Saviez-vous que tout homme marié qui travaillait au moulin ne peut pas gagner moins que 25 cts de l'heure,vous saviez ça? R J'en ai entendu parler, par les autres un petit peu.

Par Mtre LAJOIE: Je fais la déclaration de M. Whitehead, c'est pas la loi, ce sont eux qui ont décidé de ne pas donner moins que 25 cts aux hommes mariés.

Mtre LAJOIE:

Q Vous vous étiez un homme qui gagniez 22 cts de l'heure? R Oui monsieur.

Q Votre ouvrage qui était tarifé à 22 cts, quand vous vous êtes marié vous faisiez le même ouvrage, il vous ont pas donné 25 cts? R Ils m'ont renvoyé.

Q Ils vous ont dit: on ne peut pas vous mettre dans la catégorie de 25 cts, alors bonjour?

R Good bye.

Q Mais vous admettrez avec moi que M. Beauregard plaisantait quand il vous disait qu'il fallait demander la permission à M.Haggar pour se marier, ce n'est pas un ministre ni catholique ni protestant M.Hagger? R Non.

Q C'est pas lui qui donne les licences? R ...

Q Alors vous vous êtes décidé de vous marier avec un salaire de 22 cts de l'heure? R Oui monsieur.

Q Et vous pensiez que étant marié vous gagneriez 3 cts de plus? R J'ai pas pensé à ça, j'ai été demander à mon patron, je lui ai demandé ça, il m'a dit qu'il fallait gagner 25 cts de l'heure, il était trop tard, je pouvais pas changer rien.

Q L'amour était trop avancé pour attendre? R Oui.

Par Mtre BEAUREGARD:

Q Vous avez pas demandé à M.Hagger pour aller voir les filles, pour voir s'il vous le permettait?

R Non.

Q Je comprends qu'à l'ouvrage vous changez vos habits? ROui.

Q Vous portez un costume obligatoire? C'est à dire qu'en été on n'est pas obligé d'en porter, on en porte au commencement de l'automne il nous oblige d'en porter.

Q Qui les payes ces habits, ces salopettes là? R Nous autres.

Q Combien ça coute? R $1.50.

Q C'est vendu par la Wabasso? R Oui.

Q Ce n'est pas acheté en dehors? R Non c'est vendu par la compagnie.

Q On a parlé des salles à manger, quand vous travailliez 12 heures,la nuit, pouviez-vous manger plus qu'une fois? R Dans ce temps là, je travaillais dessus les frames,les petits doughers, j'étais spare, mon ouvrage était dougher, il fallait aider aux autres, on avait pas de temps te fixer, on mangeait aussitot qu'on avait le temps.

Q C'est comme ça se trouvait? R Oui,monsieur.

Et le dit témoin ne dit rien de plus.

(La feuille 985 suit)

ARTHUR DESSUREAULT, est assermenté.

INTERROGE PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. M. Dessureau, quel âge avez-vous? R. 25 ans.

Q. Etes-vous marié? R. Non.

Q. Vous n'avez pas assez cher pour vous marier? R. Je ne pense pas.

Q. Depuis combien de temps travaillez vous au moulin?
R. Trois ans.

Q. Qu'est-ce que vous faites? R. Dougher sur les cards.

Q. Depuis combien de temps, dougher? R. A peu près un an.

Q. Ca paye combien de l'heure? R. 25 cents à l'heure.

Q. Votre paye est de 25 cents à l'heure? R.. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que vous avez un bonus des fois, après le vingt-cinq cents? R. Du tout.

Q. Vous êtes dougher de métier? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Depuis combien de temps? R. Deux ans.

Q. Quel salaire aviez vous? R. Dix-huit cents.

Q. Combien de cards avez-vous? R. A cleaner?

Q. Oui? R. 74.

Q. Vous avez 74 cards? R. A cleaner.

Q. Vous avez combien de cards à dougher? R. 45

Q. Ca vous prend combien de temps par dough? R. Seulement la dough, ça prend 10 minutes.

Q. Vous faites ça à toutes les intervalles de 25 minutes?
R. I.........

Q. Vous comptez dix minutes pour changer la bobine?
R. Oui.

Q. Le reste du 25 minutes, qu'est-ce que vous faites?
R. J'ôte les cannes vides.

Dessureault.

Q. Le cleanage et le balayage, ça prend combien de temps?
R. 5 minutes.

Q. Que reste-t-il à faire après celà? R. Aussitôt que c'est cleané, il faut recommencer, il y en a autant à faire.

Q. Etes vous assuré? R. J'ai essayé de m'assurer. Pour la maladie, cette compagnie m'a refusé, elle m'a transferré à une autre, le taux était plus élevé.

Q. Pourquoi? R. Parce qu'il y avait de la poussière dans ce département là.

Q. La compagnie a pas voulu vous assurer sur le taux ordinaire? R. Non.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y avait réellement autant de poussière que celà? R. Pas mal.

Q. Ou était-elle cette poussière? R. Sur les murs, sur les plafonds.

Q.- De la poussière sur les murs? R. Sur le plafond.

Q. Celle du plafond ne vous dérangeait pas? R. Le vendredi, quand on faisait dix heures, on faisait celà sur l'heure du diner, ça nous tombait sur la tête.

Q. Il y en a pas mal? R. Oui

Q. Cette poussière là, n'est-elle pas absorbée dans un vacuum. R. Oui.

Q. On la fait tomber à terre, on se dépêche d'aller la ramasser? R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce que votre ouvrage absorbe tout votre temps?
R. Oui.

Q. Avez-vous assez de vos heures pour faire l'ouvrage que vous avez? R. Il faut prendre un peu d'avance pour charroyer les cannes avant le diner.

Q. Vous commencez à quelle heure à travailler? R. On est supposé à commencer à une heure moins cinq ou une heure.

Q. Alors, vous commencez avant celà? R. Pour prendre de l'avance.

Q. Combien de temps avant? R. Des fois à moins 25, moins vingt, moins quart.

Q. Si vous ne faisiez pas celà, qu'est-ce qui arriverait?
R. Il arriverait qu'on ne pourrait pas cleaner pour le quart de deux heures.

Q. Pour prendre de l'avance, pour choroyer les bobines?
R. Oui.

Q. Où allez-vous les prendre ces bobines là? R. Dans le stand, ici il faut les prendre en haut.

Q. Vous allez chercher les bobines, vous les entrez pour arriver à temps, vous allez les chercher d'avance, avant que votre heure commence, vous faites celà, avant que votre temps commence à courir? R. On va pas toujours dans le haut.

Q. Combien avez-vous de l'heure? R. 24 cents.

Q. Vous travaillez combien d'heures par jour? R. Sept hrs.

Q. Votre dernière paye s'est élevée à combien? R. $20.05

Q. Pour quinze jours? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Plein temps? R. Moins une demi-heure.

CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. Sur votre ouvrage, est-ce que vous n'attrapez pas des dix minutes, des quarts d'heures ou vous pouvez vous reposer?
R. Du tout.

Q. Prétendez-vous que vous n'arrêtez pas du tout sur votre ouvrage? R. Pas longtemps, Monsieur.

Q. Vous arrivez, le midi, à quelle heure?
R. Moins vingt, moins vingt-cinq, des fois moins quart.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. Une heure moins vingt-cinq? R. Oui Monsieur.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. Vous montez en haut? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. A quelle heure entrez vous dans le moulin?

R. Sept heures.

Q. C'est sensé être quel quart? R. de 7 à 3.

Q. Vous allez diner chez-vous, vous?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Vous n'avez pas besoin de salle à manger?

R. Il n'y en a pas.

Q. Vous partez à quelle heure pour aller diner. Vous entrez le matin à sept heures, vous partez à quelle heure pour aller diner? R. A midi.

Q. A moins cinq ou et cinq? Rep. Midi, des fois, et cinq.

Q. Des fois, moins cinq? R. Jamais.

Q. Vous allez diner? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous ne restez pas là tout votre diner?

R. Non.

Q. Vous ne restez pas là? R. Non.

Q. Quand vous revenez, vous commencez à préparer votre ouvrage? R. Oui.

Q. Vous charroyez vos cannes? R. Les cannes.

Q. Vous vous préparez à faire votre ronde avant parce que ça vous prend du temps? R. Ca prend pour une dough, remplacer les cannes vides, ça prend pour une dough 10 minutes.

Q. C'est votre première ouvrage, la première ronde, qui prend 10 minutes. Alors, vous finissez celà après?

R. La première dough, on dough une heure, là, je vais chercher les cannes, prendre une dough: ça fait vingt minutes, il reste cinq minutes pour l'autre dough.

Q. Ca prend vingt minutes pour faire quoi?

R. Dougher, ça prend dix minutes. Pour changer les cannes et les remplacer; 10 minutes.

Q. Faites-vous une série d'opérations de une heure à trois

heures? R. Six doughs dans deux heures.

Q. Et dix minutes par dough, dix minutes pour enlever les bobines et dix minutes pour les changer. Vous ditez que de une heure à trois heures, vous en faites six?

R. Six.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Que faites-vous à part celà? R. Je tiens le dessus du dougher et je passe tout le long.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. Tous les tissus sont dans une petite boite à l'huile qu'il y a dans le bas. R.........

Q. Le balayage se fait le vendredi?

R. Le cleanage du plafond, il font celà avec des ballets, ils frappent sur les murs.

Q. Est-ce bien haut l'étage où vous travaillez?

R. Oui.

Q. Vingt-cinq pieds a peu près? R. Je ne peux pas dire.

Q. Avez-vous connaissance qu'il y a des ventilateurs?

R. Oui, c'est un tuyau qu'il y a dans le plafond.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a de la succion, de l'air qui circule?

R. Sur mon plancher, c'est fermé, des fois ouvert, des fois fermé.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a un inspecteur de ventilateurs à votre connaissance? R. Je ne sais pas.

Q. Avez-vous travaillé tout le temps à la compagnie depuis que vous êtes-là? R. J'ai été une escousse à rien faire.

Q. Combien de temps? R. Six mois, cinq mois.

Q. Avant celà, où travailliez vous?

R. Dans la drave, dans le bois.

Q. Etes-vous un fils de cultivateurs?

R. Non.

Q. Où êtes-vous né? R. A Grand'Mère.

Q. Votre famille demeure-t-elle à Trois-Rivières.?

R. Non, Monsieur.

Q. Toute votre famille demeure à Grand'Mère, vous êtes en pension à Trois-Rivières, et vous travaillez à la Wabasso?

ME BEAUREGARD: C'est comme ça que Trois-Rivières est passée de 10,000 à 40,000 habitants.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. Vous n'avez pas de frère qui travaille à la Wabasso avec vous? R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Pensionnez-vous chez des employés de la Wabasso?

R. Oui.

Q. Dans la maison, êtes-vous plusieurs employés de la Wabasso? R. Trois.

Q. Est-ce que celui chez qui vous pensionnez travaille aussi à la Wabasso? R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a des membres de sa famille qui travaillent à la Wabasso? Aucun de sa famille.

Q. Alors, vous êtes quatre, trois pensionnaires et le propriétaire, vous travaillez tous les quatre à la Wabasso?

R. Oui.

Q. Comment payez-vous, ce n'est pas un secret?

R. Ca pourrait être un secret.

Q. Par semaine? R. $4.00 par semaine.

CYRILLE FLUET, est assermenté.

INTERROGE PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. M. Fluet, quel âge avez-vous?

R. 33 ans.

Q. Etes-vous marié? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous des enfants? R. Deux.

Q. Depuis combien de temps travaillez vous à la Wabasso?

R. Seulement 15 ans.

Q. Quel est votre occupation là?

R. Grinder de cards.

Q. Avez-vous travaillé là sans interruption depuis quinze ans? R. Deux courtes interruptions, j'ai été suspendu en 1921, j'ai retourné l'année suivante. L'année suivante, J'ai abandonné pour six mois; j'ai toujours travaillé depuis ce temps là, depuis 1923, sans interruption.

Q. En quoi consiste votre ouvrage?

R. Grinder les cards, aiguiser les cards.

Q. Vous faites fonctionner un mécanisme qui tient les ciseaux de la carde en bonne état? R. Justement.

Q. Vous avez combien de cards comme celà à surveiller?

R. 170.

Q. Est-ce une opération que vous avez à faire tous les jours sur les cards. R. Pas sur tous les 170, on en fait régulièrement chaque jour. On en fait 7 par jour sur chaque chiffre, ça fait 14. Dans dix jours, on en fait 140, ça prend 13 jours.

Q. Vous n'avez pas trois équipes?

R. Deux équipes.

Q. Toutes les équippes travaillent à tour de rôle?

R. Une fini l'ouvrage et l'autre la commence.

Q. Alors c'est un travail sur lequel, il n'y a pas d'arrêt? R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Toutes les heures de travail qui vous sont allouées, vous êtes au travail? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Parce que vous n'êtes pas intéressé dans la production

vous êtes juste intéressé aux machines. Combien que ça paye?

R. J'ai quarante cents de l'heure.

Q. Huit heures par jour ou sept heures?

R. Huit heures par jour.

Q. Vous ne prenez pas une heure pour manger?

R. Pas sur le chiffre de nuit.

Q. Vous entrez au moulin à onze heures, vous travaillez sans arrêt jusqu'à 7 heures? R. Je ferai remarquer qu'il y a deux hommes par chiffre.

Q. Avant de faire ce que vous dites, que faisiez-vous?

R. Je runnais les cards.

Q. Ca payait quoi celà? R. Dans ce temps-là, on avait un prix uniforme de 32 cents de l'heure.

Q. Ca remonte jusqu'à quel temps?

R. Ca fait huit ans que je fais cet ouvrage, depuis 1928.

Q. Combien de cards aviez-vous en 1928.?

R. C'était divisé en sections variant de 12 à 15 cards chaque homme.

Q. Et actuellement, quelle est l'importance de chaque section, combien chaque homme a-t-il de cards?

R. Les rôles sont tous changés maintenant. Quand on avait une section de 12 à 15 cards, on posait le rouleau de coton, on le cleanait, on le doughait nous autres mêmes. Maintenant, il y a des hommes destinés à chaque ouvrage.

Q. Un homme qui opère le card, un qui fait le doughage de ce card là? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Maintenant, tout celà est spécialisé,

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Il y a des doughers, des gens qui clean le coton, combien ont-ils de l'heure? R. Il y en a un qui a trente-six, l'autre 42, l'autre 45, l'autre 47.

Q. Ont-ils un salaire égal ces gens là?

R. Tel que je l'ai dit, ils n'ont pas le même nombre de cards, alors le salaire varie suivant la quantité de cards qu'ils ont.

Q. Il y a des doughers, il y a des nettoyeurs, des stripeurs? R. Des stripeurs.

Q. Combien ont les stripeurs?

R. 36 cents de l'heure.

Q. Ce sont eux qui contrôlent le vacuum qui va chercher la poussière dans les cards. R. Il y a un système, une machine qui tire l'air.

Q. Les helpers, qu'est-ce qu'ils ont à faire?

R. Ils arrêtent de 4 à 5 cards.

Q. Ils préparent l'ouvrage et retournent les cardes quand les strippers ont passé? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Votre salaire de 32 cents de l'heure a-t-il été toujours autant que celà? R. Mon salaire avant d'^etre grinder était de 32 cents; il est de 40 cents maintenant.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a longtemps qu'il est de 40 cents, votre salaire? R. Depuis 4 ou 5 ans.

Q. Ca peut varier de 4 à 5 ans qu'il a été de 40 et 42 cents? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Faites-vous le même ouvrage que vous faisiez lorsque vous aviez 41 cents et 42 cents? R. La même chose.

Q. Combien d'heures de travail par jour faisiez vous dans ce temps là? R. Treize heures.

Q. Aujourd'hui, vous en travaillez......

R. A 40 cents j'ai travaillé une escousse douze heures, ensuiste 8 heures, maintenant.......

Q. Avez-vous déjà eu plus que 42 cents pour le métier que vous faites là? R. On est deux hommes. J'ai eu 44 cents parce que celui qui travaille avec moi a deux cents de plus de l'heure que moi. Parce que l'homme qui travaille avec moi,

l'ouvrage qu'il fait plus de pression. J'ai pris sa place pendant trois mois. Maintenant, cet homme là n'a plus quarante-quatre cents, il a quarante-deux cents.

Q. Vous êtes tombé à 40 cents et lui à 42.

R. Je suis tombé à 40 cents et lui à 42.

Q. Quel le nom du contremaître de votre départment?

R. On les change à tous les semaines, cette semaine, c'est Chandler, la semaine dernière, c'était Crankshaw; la semaine prochaine, il reviendra encore.

Q. Vous n'avez jamais été contremaître?

R. Non Monsieur, le plus haut grade que j'ai eu, c'est celui que j'occupe actuellement.

Q. Vous êtes payé pour 8 hrs. R. Oui, Monsieur

CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. De quel quart êtes-vous?

R. De 11 à 7 la nuit.

Q. Vous êtes de 11 à 7? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Vous êtes deux hommes, vous faites le même ouvrage?

R. Oui,Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que les machines marchent pendant l'ouvrage que vous faites, où s'il faut que vous attendiez que la machine arrête pour faire l'ouvrage? R. Il faut attendre que la machine arrête.

Q. Alors, vous avez de petits repos quand vous êtes à la machine? R. Non, Monsieur, pas de repos, parce qu'aport de grinder, il faut faire tout le remplissage; on est grinder et fixeur en même temps.

Q. Avez-vous quelques moments libres dans votre quart de nuit? R. Si on faisait tout l'ouvrage qui nous est donné......on est obligé d'ens laisser, ce matin même j'en ai laissé. Quand on n'en laisse, on s'arrange avec le bos, on s'entend très bien.

Q. Etes-vous satisfait de votre contremaître?

R. Oui.

Q. Vous vous arrangez bien avec vos contremaîtres?

R. Depuis une période de 7 ou 8 mois.

Q. Avec M. Chandler et M. Crankshaw?

R. C'est un gentil garçon, je n'ai pas un mot à dire contre lui.

Q. M. Crankshaw? R. Depuis le 8 août, surtout, ça va bien.

Q. Etes-vous membre de l'union?

R. Peut-être que oui.

Q. Etes-vous l'un de ceux dont on espère avoir l'application. R. On peut espérer.

Q. Avez-vous payé votre contribution à l'Union?

R. J'en ai payé.

Q. Avez-vous discontinué à payer?

R. C'est-à-dire que j'en ai payé, j'ai payé quand j'ai pu.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Il a des arrérages.

LE TEMOIN: J'ai pu en avoir.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. A l'heure actuelle, vous faites $3.20 par jour?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Et depuis combien d'années, celà? R. $3.20 depuis février, 1935, ou commencement de mars.

Q. Vous demeurez aux Trois-Rivières, depuis assez longtemps? R. Depuis 15 ans, 1921.

Q. Vous venez de la campagne? R. Lister.

Q. Dans les cantions de l'est? R. Mégantic.

Q. avez-vous appris votre métier à Trois-Rivières?

R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Vous étiez de la ferme? R. J'étais de la ferme.

Q. Votre famille demeure-t-elle à Trois-Rivières ou si vous êtes venu garçon? R. Je suis venu avec mon père.

Q. Est-ce que vous avez de vos parents qui travaillent à l'usine? R. Pas de mes parents, frères ou soeurs; j'ai de mes parents.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup des employés de l'usine qui sont en pension chez vous? R. Non, monsieur.

Q. Vos enfants sont en très jeune âge?

R. Quatre et six ans.

CHARLES CROTEAU, est assermenté:

PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. M. Croteau, depuis combien d'années travaillez-vous au moulin Wabasso? R. Deux ans et demi.

Q. Quel est votre emploi là? R. Weaver.

Q. Sur combien de moulins travaillez-vous? R. Sur huit.

Q. De quel genre? R. Anglais,

Q. On les appelle des moulins anglais. R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Combien gagnez-vous? R. $17., 16, 14.

Q. Pour quinze jours? R. Oui.

Q. Combien d'heures de travail? R. 7 heures.

Q. Par jour? R. Oui.

Q. Pendant 6 jours? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Cela fait 84 heures, cela? R. Oui, monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous déjà eu moins de moulins que cela?

R. On en a eu 6.

Q. En aviez-vous 6 dans les journées de huit heures?

R. Dans les journées de sept heures.

Q. Dans les journées de sept heures, vous aviez six moulins anglais? Oui, on a six moulins anglais.

Q. Faisiez-vous plus d'argent qu'avec huit moulins?

R. Oui, aussi bien.

Q. Vous avez 23 ans? R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce que c'est plus difficile de conduire huit moulins que six? R. C'est plus difficile parce qu'on n'a pas le temps de voir à notre ouvrage.

Q. C'est à dire, il y a trop de moulins à voir?

R. Oui.

Q. Avez-vous de l'ouvrage difficile?

R. Assez difficile. Je travaille sur les 6 lames.

Q. C'est du gros fil, ou du petit fil?

R. Du gros fil.

Q. Ca demande de la surveillance? R. Oui.

Q. Quand vous aviez six moulins, pouviez-vous surveiller mieux votre ouvrage? R. Oui.

Q. Vous en produisiez plus? R. On n'en produisait pas plus, on n'en faisait autant.

Q. Avec beaucoup plus de plaisir? R. Oui.

Q. Savez-vous combien vous gagnez à l'heure, comment votre salaire est mesuré? R. J'ai jamais calculé.

Q. Avez-vous un appareil sur vos moulins qui enrégistre ce que vous faites? R. Ca se trouve par les compteurrs.

Q. Qu'est-ce qu'il dit le compteur? Est-ce qu'il dit combien vous avez fait ou combien vous devez faire?

R. Il ne dit pas combien on doit faire, il marque juste ce qu'on fait.

Q. Vous avez une indication pour dire ce qu'on attend de vous par jour? R. Non.

Q. Ce n'est pas marqué sur vos moulins? R. Non.

Q. Il est indiqué ce que vous faites? R. Oui.

Q. Quelle différence avez-vous trouvé entre le temps ou vous travailliez sur les six moulins et celui ou vous travailliez sur les huit moulins, combien de différence par quinzaine? R. Pas une grosse différence, environ $1.00 par semaine.

Q. Comment que ça fait de temps que vous avez huit moulins? R. Depuis Noel, l'année passée.

Q. Combien avez-vous pris de temps pour apprendre celà?

R. Deux mois et demi.

Q. Pour apprendre a tisser? R. Oui, apprendre à weaver.

Q. Combien étiez-vous payé comme apprenti?

R. Je retirais rien.

Q. Un gros zéro? R. C'est-à-dire, que j'ai retiré 60 cents.

Q. Vous aviez 60 cents pour combien de temps?

R. Deux mois et demi.

Q. Ca fait pas tout à fait trente cents par mois. R.... (pas de réponse)

CONTRE-INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. Vous avez été deux mois et demi apprenti?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. C'est vous qui avez demandé pour entrer apprenti?

R. Oui.

Q. N'est-il pas vrai que c'est l'usage dans les moulins que pour avoir l'occasion d'être employé, vous demandez au patron de vous laisser comme apprenti pendant quelques temps pour apprendre votre métier avec un ami, pour pouvoir ensuite être employé? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. N'est-il pas vrai qu'il y en a beaucoup comme celà qui veulent entrer au moulin, qui n'ont pas de métier, et qu'on leur permet parce qu'ils n'ont rien à faire depuis longtemps d'aller au moulin apprendre un métier avec quelqu'un qui a un conseil à leur donner, afin que lorsquêils connaissent le métier, ils puissent être placés sur la liste de paye, c'est à votre connaissance? R. Oui.

Q. Ca se fait, vous n'êtes pas le seul qui avez fait celà; il y en a d'autres qui sont entrés dans le moulin pour appren-

dre le métier comme ça? R. Oui.

Q. C'est vous qui avez demandé d'entrer comme apprenti?

R. Oui.

LE TEMOIN: Est-ce que j'ai droit de parler, j'ai une question à poser.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Allez, dites.

LE TEMOIN: J'ai travaillé pour démancher des vieux métiers, je n'ai pas été payé la dessus.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. Quand avez vous fait ça? R. Dans l'été de mon apprentissage.

Q. Comment de fois? R. Une journée.

Q. D'où venez-vous, de quelle paroisse venez-vous?

R. Fortierville.

Q. Vous êtes venu aux Trois-Rivières avec votre famille?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Vous avez deux frères et une soeur qui travaillent, c'est-à-dire trois soeurs et deux frères dans votre famille, qui travaillent au moulin? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que vous en avez laissé autant à la Maison?

R. Il n'en reste 9 à la maison, c'est-à-dire que je me suis trompé, j'ai trois de mes soeurs qui travaillent à la shop qui ne restent pas chez-nous.

Q. Vous avez une belle famille, Votre père et votre mère vivemt? R. Oui.

Q. Ils demeurent aux Trois-Rivières? R. Ouil

Q. Sur quelle rue? R. Ste-Angèle.

Q. Votre père travaille-t-il? R. Il ne travaille pas, il est malade.

Q. Etes-vous le plus vieux de la famille, vous?

R. Le plus vieux des garçons.

Q. Gardez-vous des pensionnaires chez-vous?

R. Non.

Q. Il n'est pas d'employés de la Wabasso, chez-vous?

R. Non.

Q. Vos trois frères, c'est-à-dire, vous et vos deux frères comment sortez-vous de la compagnie par quinzaine, à part de la poussière, comme dirait M. Beaurégard?

R. On se trouve à sortir....... trois filles qui s'en vont à la maison chez-nous.

Q. Comment sortez-vous à vous trois? R. Y sont à peu près comme moi.

Q. Vous sortez comment par quinzaine? R. $14.00 à $17.00

Q. Vos trois soeurs, où leurs payes va t'elles.

R. Elles sont mariées, y a leurs maris.

Q. Ca va dans le fond conjugal? R. d'habitude.

Q. A la maison, chez-vous, vous apportez $45.00 par quinzaine, vous êtes deux autres payes, trois à $15.00 en moyenne?

R. Oui.

Q. Vous avez jamais travaillé ailleurs qu'à la Wabasso?

R. A Shawinigan.

Q. Quel ouvrage faisiez-vous à Shawinigan?

R. Je travaillais dans l'aliminium.

Q. Sur les poeles? R. Sur les poeles, dans lesquels, ce mélange de sable où on cuit l'aliminium.

Q. Vous êtes aux Trois-Rivières depuis combien de temps?

R. Depuis sept ans.

Q. Avez-vous été malade pendant que vous travailliez dans l'aliminium? R. Non.

ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Alors, vous êtes trois à la maison chez-vous qui travaillez au moulin? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Votre père ne travaille pas? R. Non

Q. Vous êtes neuf enfants à la maison? R. Oui

Q. Six à la maison? R. Trois qui travaillent.

Q. Avez-vous votre mère? R. Oui.

Q. Ca fait onze? R. Oui.

Q. Il entre chez-vous quarante-cinq piastres par quinzaine? R. Oui.

Q. 22.50 par semaine? R. Oui

Q. Pour onze? R. Oui.

Q. Avec ce qui vous reste, vous en avez pas assez pour acheter les actions qui se vendent à $110.00?

ME LAJOIE: Ce sont des débendures.

LE TEMOIN:

R. Non.

ME LAJOIE:

Q. Est-ce qu'il entre d'autre argent chez-vous. Votre père retire-t-il de l'argent du secours direct?

R. Non.

Q. Vous n'en retirez pas? R. Non.

Q.

WILFRID LIZOTTE, est assermenté.

PAR ME BEAUREGARD:

Q. Lizotte, quel est votre âge? R. 38 ans.

Q.- Etes-vous marié? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous des enfants? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Travaillez vous au moulin? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Actuellement? R. Actuellement.

Q. A quelle occupation? R. Weave Room.

Q. Quel est le nom de votre patron? R. Carpentier.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y en a d'autres sur les autres quarts? Comment s'appellent-ils? R. Fortier.

Q. Alors, vous êtes depuis combien de temps tisserant, vous? R. Environ 4 ans.

Q. Depuis combien de temps au moulin? R. 4 ans.

Q. Vous avez combien de métiers et combien de moulins?

R. Dans le moment, je run de 30 à 33.

Q. De quel genre? R. Dougher, j'en ai 16 d'une largeur différente, et 14 autres.

Q. 16 d'une certaine largeur et 14 autres?

R. Oui.

Q. Vous travaillez le jour? R. De onze heures du soir à 7 heures du matin.

Q. Travaillez-vous sept heures ou huit heures?

R. 8 heures.

Q. Sans interruption? R. Excepté le dimanche au soir, on commence à minuit, pour finir à sept heures.

Q. Les jours ordinaires, avez-vous une interruption de onze heures à sept. R. Du tout.

Q. Vous travaillez huit heures? R. Huit Heures.

Q. Vous avez votre paye en avant de vous?

R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Devant vous, vous avez un certain nombre d'enveloppes de paye, ce sont vos enveloppes de payes?

R. Oui, Monsieur, depuis qu'elles sont étampées, j'ai travaillé un an et demi avant qu'ils les étampes.

Q. Vous avez deux grouppe différent d'enveloppes, Dans une série, elles sont étampées, dans l'autre série elles ne sont pas étampées? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Celles que je tiens dans mes mains, qui comprend quatroze enveloppes, c'est quatorze quinzaine, depuis qu'on étampe les enveloppes? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Avez-vous perdu du temps? R. Une strike au mois de février.

Q. A part celà, sur vos enveloppes, c'est vous qui écrivez combien ça fait d'heures? R. C'est moi qui ai calculé celà.

Q. Vous avez marqué sur chaque enveloppe...

R. Le montant que ça pouvait donner d'heures.

Q. Vous avez des vingt cents, des vingt-neuf cent et ¾ des vingt-cinq, vingt-six, trente cents, vingt-sept cents; alors il faudrait faire la moyenne pour savoir combien vous avez eu en moyenne pendant ces semaines celà. Ca varierait de 25 cents à trente cents de l'heure. R. A peu près.

Q. Votre plus grosse paye est celle de $27.30?

R. $27.85, je crois.

Q. Votre plus grosse paye est de $27.30 et votre plus petite est de $4.00 pour une quinzaine? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Vous avez également devant vous une autre série d'enveloppes qui portent un numéro matricule, c'est-à-dire, le numéro de la pièce de cuivre qu'on vous donne avant l'enveloppe? R. Oui, Monsieur.

Q. Sur les enveloppes, le montant de la paye est écrit à la mine? R. Oui, Monsieur, par la compagnie.

Q. Les heures y sont? R. Non, Monsieur, ce n'est pas dans ce temps là.

Q. Ceci pouvait être une période de combien de temps?

R. A peu près 14 ou 15 mois, je ne peux pas dire au juste.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE:

Q. Est-ce que vous avez fait une pièce avec le premier paquet?

(1010 suit)

Q. Vous n'avez pas pris la peine d'établir les heures?

R. Non Monsieur.

Q. Voulez-vous produire ce lot d'enveloppes comme pièce No 73 ? R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Combien de moulins avez-vous ? R. 30 dans le moment.

Q. En avez-vous eu plus déjà ? R. Non.

Q. En avez-vous eu moins ? R. Pas sur les Drapers.

Q. Sur le métiers anglais , combien aviez-vous de ces métiers là ?

R. J'en ai eu six, huit, dix.

Q. Pendant combien de temps cela ?

R. Depuis que j'ai commencé à la manufacture.

Q. Aimez-vous mieux en avoir six que dix ?

R. J'aime mieux en avoir six, cela nous fait moins loin à parcourir.

Q. Et vous faites plus d'argent avec six ?

R. Oui.

Q. Parce que la Compagnie vous paye au pick ?

R. Dans ce temps-là, j'étais à la cotte;après cela ils ont posé le compteur, alors ça marchait au pick.

Q. Faites-vous une plus grosse paye depuis que vous êtes au pick ? R. Ca baissé un petit peu.

Q. De combien par semaine ? ou par quinzaine ?

R. Les heures ont changé, je travaillais dix heures avant et aujourd'hui, je n'en travaille que huit.

Q. Avez-vous déjà subi, avez-vous déjà été réduit, est-ce que l'on vous a déjà enlevé quelque chose sur votre paye. R. Une fois, Ils m'ont ôté $0.50.

Q. Pourquoi ? R. Pour avoir été voir du coton à la table.

Q. C'est-à-dire que l'on vous a amené à la table pour voir de votre coton.

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. On vous a enlevé $0.50 ? R. Oui Monsieur, on m'a dit qu'il y aurait $0.50 d'enlevé ou je perdrais ma job ; j'avais entendu dire que la fille qui était à ma place avant avait perdu sa place parce qu'elle n'avait pas voulu payer $0.50.

CCONTRE INTERROGE PAR ME LAJOIE:

Q. D'où venez-vous M. Lizotte ? R. Quand je suis arrivé parici, je venais de Manchester, New-Hamshire.

Q. Vous travailliez au moulin à coton, là ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous êtes arrivé aux Trois-Rivières depuis quand ? R. Depuisle 4 juin 1930.

Q. Est-ce qu'il y avait de l'ouvrage à Manchester New-Hampshire au moulin de cotnn ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Est-ce que ça marchait en 1930 ?

R. Oui; en 1930, je ne travaillais pas là, j'étais à la manufacture de Shoes Shop.

Q. Quand vous êtes venu ici, étiez-vous garçon ?

R. Non Monsieur, j'étais marié.

Q. Vous n'avez pas eu d'autre occupation en arrivant aux Trois-Rivières que de travailler à la Wabasso ?

R. Oui Monsieur.

Q. Vous êtes- arrivé ici, en 1930 ?

R. A peu près.

Q. Vous êtes entré à la Wabasso, en quelle année ?

R. A la fin de 1931 ou au commencement de 1932.

Q. Combien avez-vous été de temps à ne rien faire avant ?

R. Je travaillais à l'International Paper Co.

Q. Aviez-vous un métier là ?

R Pour l'International Paper Co. je travaillais sur les bûches.

Q En entrant avec la compangie Wabasso, quel salaire aviez-vous ?

R. Je ne me rappelle pas, je sais qu'ils m'ont donné six métiers et j'ai ronné.

Q. Des métiers anglais ?

R. Oui.

Q. Est-ce qu'ils marchent encore ces métiers anglais là ?

R. Il y en a quelques uns, je crois.

Q. N'est-il pas vrai qu'ils marchent seulement une partie de l'année ?

R. Il y en a quelques uns qui marchent.

Q. Combien en reste-t-ils qui marchent aujourd'hui

R. Je ne sais pas.

Q. À peu près.

R. Je ne sais pas du tout.

Q. Est-ce qu'ils marchent toute l'année ou seulement pendant un certain temps ?

R. Je ne crois pas qu'ils marchent toute l'année.

Q. Alors, ce qui reste dans le moulin en fait de métiers, ce sont les Drapers.

R. À peu près

Q. Et les Drapers ont remplacé les métiers anglais ?

R. Oui, les métiers anglais ne sont plus bons; parce qu'ils n'ont pas l'air a les aimer.

Q. Est-ce que les Drapers donne une meilleure production ?

R Pour la compagnie, jecrois.

Q Ils sont plus vite ?

R Pour la compagnie, je crois.

Q Les Drapers sont meilleurs ?

R Pour la Compagnie, je crois.

Q Ils font plus de picks ?

R Oui,

Q Alors quand un moulin fait plus de picks, vous en avez plus, vous faites plus d'argent ?

R On est payé à la proportion.

Q Ils tournent plus vite que les métiers anglais ?

R Ca tourne plus vite,mais ça casse plus vite.

Q Alors, quand ça casse, qu'est-ce que vous faites?

R On est pas supposé s'occuper de cela, nous appelons l'aide.

Q Il y a un homme qui est nommé pour vous aider ?

R Il y en a un pour 100 métiers.

Q Par série de métiers.

R Oui.

Q. Vous, vous avez combien de métiers ?

R Trente.

Q Avec 100 métiers, combien étiez-vous d'hommes ?

R Trois hommes.

Q Plus un aide, pour 100 métiers ?

R Il y en a qui en prenait 35 et d'autres 33.

Q Mettons environ 100.Alors, il y a trois hommes, plus un aide ?

R Moi, je n'ai jamais divisé cela, moi, j'ai ronné 30 et 33 métiers.

Q Votre moyenne par heure, avez-vous une idéé qu'elle est votre moyenne par heure ?

R C'est marqué sur la paye.

Q Cà fait $ 0.29 à peu près.

R Les heures sont marquées dessus ?

Q C'est marqué 20 heures.

R Ils sont divisés, je crois.

Q Pourquoi avez-vous eu $ 4.00 pour 20 heures?

R La manufacture n'a pas donné plus, je n'ai pas travaillé plus.

Q Vous avez deux payes de $ 4.00 ?

R C'est aux alentours de la grève. Une quand je suis sorti et une quand je suis rentré.

Q Cà n'a pas payé la grève, les payes s'en sont r ressenties ?

R Oui...

Q Répondez oui ou non.

R Non.

Q Ce $ 0.50 dont vous parlez qu'on vous a enlevé, cà fait combien de temps de cela ?

R Cà fait deux ans et demi ou trois ans.

Q Il y a trois ans on vous a enlevé $ 0.50 et vous vous en rappelez encore ?

R Oui, monsieur.

Me BEAUREGARD:

Qu'il plaise à la Cour, comme avocat de la Commission, je viens de terminer la preuve que j'avais à offrir de la part des ouvriers. S'il restait quelque chose, laquelle preuve que nous pourrons faire, je crois que nous pourrons la faire par l'entremise des officiers de la Compagnie. Alors, je déclare cette

partie de la preuve close, et comme je n'ai pas vu cet après-midi M. McRuer, je demanderais l'adjournement immédiatement, si cela rencontre les vues de la Commission.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Q Est-ce que M. Lajoie a des témoins à faire entendre?

Me LAJOIE:

Oui, seulement je n'aimerais pas commencér une preuve entre deux parties, j'aime mieux faire tout d'un trait.

M le COMMISSAIRE:

Et vous, M. Gariépy, est-ce que vous avez une preuve à offrir?

Me GARIEPY:

Je suis autorisé par mes clients, les 1094 que je représente ici à déclarer que nous sommes satisfaits de la preuve soumise ici, par le Commission.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

Je Crois que vous avez déclaré hier que la loi provinciale reconnaissait aux ouvriers le droit de s'organiser.

Me GARIEPY:

Oui, depuis un certain temps, je ne me souviens pas très bien, je vous la fournirai demain matin.

M le COMMISSAIRE:

Alors, dans ces conditions, nous allons adjourner à demain matin

La séance est levée à 4hrs et 10 p.m. pour être reprise samedi, le 28 mars à dix heures de l'avant midi.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,

Commissioner.

A. S. Whiteley, Secretary.

EIGHTH DAY

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,

Commissioner.

A.S. Whiteley, Secretary.

J.C. McRuer, K.C., and E. Beauregard, K.C.	Commission Counsel.
J.P. Lanctot, K.C.,	For special Committee of Primary Textile Industries.
S.G. Dixon, K.C.,	For Cortaulds Limited.
L.A. Forsyth, K.C.,	For Canadian Celanese Limited and Canadian Silk Products Limited.
Francois Lajoie, K.C.,	for the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited.
Hormidas Garipey,	For the Local Union of the United Textile Workers of America.

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

Trois-Rivières, Qué.
le 28 mars 1936.

La séance s'ouvre à 10.00 a.m. sous la présidence de l'honorable Juge W.F.A. Turgeon

Me GARIEPY:

Monsieur le Commissaire, à la fin de l'audition, hier après-midi, vous m'avez demandé des références législatives se rapportant au droit statutaire des ouvriers de pouvoir s'organiser.

J'ai fais des recherches; les références que je suis en mésures de vous soumettre, quoique mes savants amis reconnaisse le droit d'organisation ouvrière, sont les suivantes: il à la Loi relative aux Syndicats Professionnels que vous trouverez à la page 298.

Maintenant, il y a également une nouvelle loi dans la province de Québec qui est rapportée à la page 102: la Loi relative à l'extension des conventions collectives de travail.

Il y a aussi une loi ancienne qui se trouve également dans le manuel que vous avez devant vous, à la page 283: Loi concernant les Conceils de Conciliation et d'arbitrage. C'est la loi de 1909, telle qu'amendée.

M. le COMMISSAIRE:

C'est la Loi Lemieux ?

Me GARIEPY:

Non, c'est une loi provinciale. Nous trouvons au paragraphe 4, 7e: " Le renvoi ou l'emploi, en vertu d'un contrat d'un employé ou d'un certain nombre d'employés; 8e: " Le renvoi d'un ou plusieurs employés à raison de son ou de leur affiliation à une association ouvrière." Ces paragraphes réfèrent évidemment à un droit existant.

Me LAJOIE:

Quelle est la dernière citation?

Me GARIEPY:

C'est à la page 283.

Me LAJOIE:

Est-ce l'édition de 1934 ou de 1935 que vous avez ?

Me GARIEPY:

C'est l'édition de 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: Mr. Whitehead.

WILLIAM JAMES WHITEHEAD, sworn,

EXAMINED BY MR. McRUER:

Q. Mr. Whitehead, what office do you hold with the Wabasso Cotton Company?
A. Managing director.

Q. How long have you been managing director?
A. Since 1932.

Q. Since 1932? A. The fall of 1932.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, please speak up; managing director since when?
A. The fall of 1932.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Who was managing director before you became managing director?
A. There was no managing director.

Q. Well, what office did you hold then before you became managing director? A. Works manager.

Q. Works manager? A. Yes.

Q. How long had you been works manager?
A. Two years.

Q. Two years; what office did you hold before that? A. I held no office in the company before that.

Q. You held no office in the company?
A. No.

Q. Were you working for the company?

A. I worked for the company since 1928.

Q. Yes; you were not in their employ prior to 1928? A. Off and on, not as a regular employee.

Q. Not as a regular employeex; then, who was actively in control of the management of the company before you became managing director?

A. The president, Mr. C. R. Whitehead, was actively in control with Mr. Aird as his manager.

Q. Is Mr. Aird still living?

A. Mr. Aird is manager at Valleyfield now.

Q. He is manager of your company at Valleyfield? A. No, the Montreal Cottons.

Q. Manager of the Montreal Cottons?

A. Yes.

Q. At Valleyfield? A. Yes.

Q. When did Mr. Aird leave your company?

A. In the fall of 1932.

Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, can you tell me about the organization of the Wabasso Cotton Company?

A. How far back?

Q. Right back to the organization of it?

A. No, sir.

Q. I asked for a statement concerning the organization of the company? A. They are in the papers with Mr. Lajoie; he has got them there to hand to you.

Q. Let me see that, please; I presume that

as a matter of history you are fairly familiar with the story of the company, how it was organized?
A. Under oath I would not like to say.

Q. Well, I am not asking you to pin yourself down to facts that you can verify yourself as being facts, but from the information that you have received, no doubt from your father?
A. Hearsay, Mr. McRuer?

Q. Yes, that is all I can expect. Have you charge of the minute books, the original minute books of the organization? A. No, sir.

Q. Where are they? A. They are at the office under charge of the secretary-treasurer.

Q. I wonder if you could have them sent for, please. Now, I have been handed a Financial Post summary about the Wabasso Cotton Company. I think probably I can get the facts better from your minute books, but it was apparently organized in 1907?
A. Yes.

Q. What was the original capitalization of the company? A. I could not tell you without looking at it.

Q. You don't know the original capitalization? Was it a business that had been carried on by your father as a private business before it was organized?
A. No, sir, it was organized as a company at its inception.

Q. At its inception; was there no business

carried on before the incorporation of the company? A. No, sir.

Q. So they started it in 1907, to go into the cotton business? A. Yes.

Q. Spinning and weaving? A. Spinning and weaving.

Q. I see according to this statement that they received a bonus of $25,000 from the City of Three Rivers together with exemption from taxation for a term of 20 years? A. I believe that is right, sir.

Q. The term of 20 years exemption from taxation would expire in 1927? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then, we will --

MR. LAJOIE: Excuse me; I don't want to interrupt you but may I make a correction. That exemption that was passed for 20 years was submitted to the people and was defeated and they had only ten years, until 1919.

MR. McRUER: I see.

MR. LAJOIE: I have prepared a history. I have been their lawyer for 25 years and I know them fairly well.

MR. McRUER: I probably ought to be examining you.

MR. LAJOIE: Maybe; I would be a pretty good witness.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, can you tell me -- you cannot tell me the capitalization of the company?

A. No sir, I could not tell you without looking it up; I am not familiar with it.

MR. McRUER: Have you got that, Mr. Lajoie?

MR. LAJOIE: The secretary has gone for the books that you asked for five minutes ago.

MR. McRUER: Good, that is fine.

Q. Then, apparently the Wabasso Cotton Company acquired 90% of the common stock of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited in 1916?

A. I understand that happened.

Q. In 1916? A. Yes.

Q. Was the Shawinigan Cotton Company a company in which your father was interested? A. Yes.

Q. When had it been organized?

A. I believe in 1912.

Q. In 1912? A. Yes.

Q. Then, if you will ask the secretary -- I spoke this morning about the minute books of the Shawinigan Company; he is bringing them?

MR. LAJOIE: I think he understood that.

MR. McRUER: We will get that.

MR. LAJOIE: We have sent down for them.

MR. McRUER: Alright.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Where did the Shawinigan Cotton Company do business? A. At Shawinigan Falls.

Q. Had it been in operation -- you said it was incorporated in 1912? A. I believe that was the date.

Q. It apparently carried on until 1916?
A. Yes.

Q. When 90% of the stock was acquired by the Wabasso Cotton Company? A. I believe that is so.

Q. Do you know what they paid for 90% of the common stock? A. I could not tell you; I have no idea.

Q. You have never learned that?
A. I don't -- I have never heard that mentioned.

Q. I suppose you can find it out?
A. It would be in the minutes.

Q. So that we will have that because it becomes a bit important later on?
A. Yes, it will be in the minutes, kept.

Q. Are you a sharehblder of the Wabasso Cotton Company? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the total capitalization of the Wabasso? A. I could not answer that offhand, sir.

Q. Well, we will probably have it in your last annual report. A. It is in the annual report.

Q. Capital stock outstanding as in 1935 -- there has been no change in the capital structure since then? A. No, sir.

Q. 69,903 shares of no par value; what proportion of those ~~shares~~ are held by yourself and your father? A. Not more than one-fifth.

Q. Would you say one-fifth? A. Not more

than one-fifth.

Q. That can be verified accurately?
A. That can be verified accurately; I would not say exactly.

THE COMMISSIONER: Would you please repeat the question for my sake, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: I asked what proportion of the shares was held by himself and his father and he says not more than one-fifth.

THE WITNESS: That would be subject to correction on examination.

Q. That would be approximately 14,000 shares?
A. I should say somewhere around there.

Q. Well then, up until 1930 this company carried on business in Canada under a much lower tariff arrangement than existed since 1930?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, you evidently got out a very nice booklet that was incorporated in an application to the Tariff Board, incorporated in a brief that was presented to the Tariff Board in 1927?
A. I saw that.

Q. You knew about the application to the Tariff Board? A. By hearsay; I had nothing to do with it.

Q. You were not connected with the company at that time? A. 1927, no.

Q. Well, I see in this booklet, which has some nice pictures, a statemnt. (Reads)

"Wabasso Cottons, due to the excellence of their texture and purity and finish have created such a demand for themselves in the trade that the company have been compelled to refuse large orders, booking only such quantities as they could deliver."

This was a statement that was made in the printed booklet prior to 1927 some time? A. Yes.

Q. You don't know when the booklet was got out? A. No, I don't know.

Q. There are a lot of pictures of the development of the mill in it. I presume the statements contained in the booklet would be true?
A. They are supposed to be. I cannot really say.

Q. So that evidently at the time this was printed things were going pretty well?
A. They have been on and off in the company through most of its history.

THE COMMISSIONER: What was the object of the application, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: The object of the application was for an increase, in order to put a tariff on yarns, forties and finer.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is that?

MR. McRUER: On yarns, forties and finer.

THE COMMISSIONER: Just what does that mean?

MR. McRUER: It is explained in the booklet--

MR. LAJOIE: They give the story of the company.

MR. McRUER: I will show that that statement is modest before I get through.

Q. The situation -- you have read the brief that was submitted to the Tariff Board, I presume? A. I have read it, but I have not studied it carefully.

Q. The situation that evidently prevailed up until that time was that yarns, forties and finer, were admitted free? A. Yes.

Q. Into Canada? A. Yes.

Q. And forties refers to the number of yards that can be obtained from a hank. Probably if I just read from the brief you can tell me if you agree with it.

MR. LAJOIE: Would you refer to the pages?

MR. McRUER: Page two of the brief.

(Reads)

> "At the time the original tariff was framed yarns -- forties were not and could not be produced in Canada. Thus they were automatically put on the free list and this has never been amended."

Then, dropping down the page.

> "To give a short example of one of the reasons why we feel that we are entitled to protection we say that in our 55 hour week one spindle running fourteen count yarn will produce three yards."

Well, he gives here -- we will come back to that later -- how the forties, how the yarn is measured. I think here that probably you might just tell the Commissioner just exactly how you measure? A. The count?

Q. Yes. A. Count of yarn?

Q. Yes. A. It is the number of hanks to a pound. A hank is 840 yards.

Q. A hank is 840 yards; and the number of hanks to a pound -- then you go on from there to get your measure, giving thirty-nines, forties and so on. A. It gives you the count. The number of hanks to the pound is the count.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What does forties mean? A. Forty hanks to a pound; 40 x 840 yards.

THE COMMISSIONER: Do not take up any more time looking for that, Mr. McRuer.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. When you get to the finer ones, eighties, it would be twice as many? A. It would be eighties, yes.

Q. And one hundred and twenties, and so forth? A. Yes.

Q. Well now, at the time you made this application for tariff on the finer yarns you had been for some time making the finer yarns here? A. Yes.

Q. And at that time you got a slight tariff on the forties? A. Forties and finer were

free. Mr. McRuer.

Q. Over forties were free after 1928?

A. I would not like to make that statement --

THE COMMISSIONER: Over forties were free or were made free?

MR. McRUER: They had been free and the duty was made to include forties, but finer than forties -- forties or finer had been free before 1928.

THE COMMISSIONER: What happened in 1928?

MR. McRUER: In 1928 the duty included the forties but finer than forties were still free.

Q. In 1930 they all came under the yarn tariff? A. Yes.

Q. We will have that; now, I think I have asked you to produce your annual reports of the --

A. I would like you to repeat that question, Mr. McRuer, that last thing I just didn't get.

Q. I said all the yarns were under the protective tariff since 1930? A. Under protective tariff?

Q. Yes, there are no free yarns after 1930?

A. I think that forties and finer have been free since 1930.

Q. Since 1930? A. I would like to check back.

Q. So, Mr. Whitehead, as managing director of this company, do you not take into consideration the tariff you have on yarns? A. Well,

we don't actually turn up the article in front of you. I have always been firmly of the opinion that forties and finer have been free.

Q. Forties and finer free --

MR. LAJOIE: 522-D is still free.

THE WITNESS: There was an amount of three million pounds came in last year under that tariff item, I believe.

BY MR. LANCTOT: Q. Three million pounds came free? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Forties and finer? A. Yes.

MR. LANCTOT: The petition was not granted.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Do I understand that forties and finer are still free and three million pounds came in free in 1935? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Free? A. Yes.

MR. LANCTOT: As a matter of fact that application was never granted for the forties.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is a fact, then; it is still free.

MR. LANCTOT: Yes, still free.

THE COMMISSIONER: Three million pounds came into Canada last year.

MR. McRUER: I don't know that I am prepared to admit that from the instructions I have had.

MR. LANCTOT: The history of the tariff will show from 1906 to date that it has been free and is still free.

MR. McRUER: You say so but I say the customs official has told me otherwise.

MR. LANCTOT: They are wrong.

MR. McRuer: I have taken my instructions from the official of the department. We will see about that.

MR. LAJOIE: Would you take our quotation? We give you 522-D.

MR. McRUER: Item?

MR. LAJOIE: Item 522-D, 522-F and 797.

(Page 1033 follows)

Q. Now, these annual reports, with balance sheet and profit and loss account, are the annual reports of your company from 1922 to 1935? A. If they are all as represented by the first and last in the published Reports.

Q. Well, you had better look them over and be sure? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And these are from 1922 ---

THE COMMISSIONER: What are they, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: The annual reports of the Wabasso Cotton Company from 1922 to 1935, inclusive, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are putting them all in as one exhibit?

MR. McRUER: I think so, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 74.

EXHIBIT 74: Annual reports of Wabasso Cotton Co. from 1922 to 1935, inclusive.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I just want to run over some of these with you, Mr. Whitehead. The first one, in 1922, shows a net profit x for that year of $243,773? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And there were dividends paid at the rate of $4.00 a share? A. I belive so.

Q. For that year, amounting to $140,000.

THE COMMISSIONER: How much a share, $4.00?

MR. McRUER: $4.00 a share, yes, sir.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. And your surplus was increased from $442,000 to $546,000? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And if we are to believe the Directors, I see that they end up by saying:

> "In submitting the balance sheet, your Directors feel that the results they are able to present should be very satisfactory to the shareholders."

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, evidently a bond issue was authorized then of $750,000? A. I believe there was.

Q. Then you come to 1923.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Was the bond issue for the purpose of extending the plant?

A. I believe it was for the purpose of extending the plant in 1923, which extension was carried out.

MR. McRUER: It shows here, my lord, "delivery of machinery and extension to the company's works, which was mentioned in a previous report, can only be obtained in the Spring of 1923, with the above object in view your directors deemed it advisable to issue new bonds to meet this expenditure." And mentioned the bond issue.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then the balance sheet of 1923 shows a manufacturing profit of $303,000, interest on investments, $113,000. Do you know what the investments were? A. I have no idea, sir.

Q. Who can tell us about these details?

A. The Secretary-Treasurer can give you exactly what they were.

Q. Was he the Secretary-Treasurer at this time back in 1922? A. No, he was not, sir.

Q. Who would know all about it first hand, that would tell us right off? A. The President, or the old Secretary-treasurer.

Q. Probably the President is the man we want. A. He would not be able to give you the actual answer without study.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Who is the President? A. Mr. C.R. Whitehead.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then after depreciation, and bond interest and sinking fund, there is a net profit of $206,000? A. Yes.

MR. LAJOIE: Mr. C.R. Whitehead is in town and available.

MR. McRUER: All right.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. The dividends for that year were $4.00 a share again? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the surplus increased $613,000? A. Yes.

Q. Now, I see that in those balance sheets there are Investments in other companies?

MR. LANCTOT: What year?

MR. MCRUER : The same one. Bonds of St. Maurice Vallye Cotton Mills, Limited.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Was that a subsidiary? A. That was a bond issue, I believe, that was made

to finance the building of the extension to the original plant in 1912 or 1913.

Q. A bond issue to finance the extension of the original plant? A. Yes, sir.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What original plant? A. The Wabasso Cotton Company.

Q. Here? A. Yes, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER: It says to the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Tell us about that, what is the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Company? A. The St. Maurice Company, I have been given to understand, is a holding company which was formed for the purpose of issuing first mortgage bonds on the property.

Q. Yes? A. To save having to take out a second mortgage on the original Wabasso plant.

Q. Did the St. Maurice Company manufacture A. They actually built a mill and bought the machinery which they leased to the Wabasso Company to operate.

Q. And do they still lease it to the Wabasso Company? A. Up to last year, yes.

Q. What ~~is the~~ does the Wabasso Company pay in the way of rent? A. I would not like to say without consulting the books.

Q. You say "Until last year". What change was made last year? A. Last year we had a

refunding of all the bonds in those various companies under one general mortgage trust deed.

Q. Under one general mortgage trust deed?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is, a bond issue covering all the properties that were owned by Wabasso, Shawinigan and St. Maurice? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And any others? A. That is all.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Are they all a practical part of the same plant? A. St.Maurice and Wabasso are to all intents and purposes, the same. There is a dividing line which the old trust deed kept separate to the rest of Wabasso.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. And does St. Maurise have a balance sheet? A. Yes.

Q. And they have an operating account? A. I believe so.

Q. They have no manufacturing account at all?
A. I don't think there is any manufacturing account.

Q. All right. Now, this shows bonds of Shawinigan Cotton Company, $117,880. The Wabasso Company had bought the bonds, or invested in bonds of the Shawinigan Company? A. I would not like to say, I do not know.

Q. Well, we will carry on with the history of the Company over this period, and in 1924 I see the net profit for that year was $143,152.68? A. Y s,sir.

Q. And the dividends were $4.00 a share? A. Yes.

Q. You and your father holding at the time about 14,000 shares? A. I would not like to say what he held at the time. I had no stock at the time. I may have had a few shares.

Q. Well, he would speak for himself. Then 1925 the net profits were $158,734 ? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the dividends $4.00 a share? A. Yes, sir.

Q. I see that you added to the surplus that year, and I notice again that the Directors feel that they had results which are very satisfactory to the shareholders? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then 1926 the net profits were $178,521.03? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And again a dividend of $4.00 a share? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now in 1927, net profits up to $272,917? A. Yes, sir.

Q. So that the surplus by now is up to $749,139? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, I see in this report, that a by-law was approved authorizing an increase of the capital stock by 70,000 shares, no par value, and I see 17,500 shares were issued to the shareholders of record on the 15th of March, 1927 at $60.00 a share. A. I believe that is right.

Q. Were you a shareholder at that time? A. I was a small shareholder.

Q. Could you tell me what the market price of the

shares would be at that time? A. Not off-hand, sir.

Q. Well now, there had been before this a split in the shares; they had been split two for one, had they not, at an earlier date? A. I believe so.

Q. Do you know the date of that? A. Not off-hand.

Q. Let me see if I can find that right now. 1921, oh, yes, I see in the report of the year 1921:

> "As mentioned in last year's report a special general meeting of shareholders was held immediately after the last general meeting, and approved a resolution of the Company authorizing an application to be made to the Secretary of State, for the issue of Supplementary Letters Patent, changing the authorized capital stock of the Company, from Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred (17,500) shares of the par value of one hundred dollars ($100.00) each, to Thirty-five thousand (35,000) shares without nominal or par value."

So that these dividends that were paid from 1921 until 1927 at $4.00 a share would be at the rate of 8.00 a share on the old capitalization? A. I believe that is the case.

Q. Yes. Then in 1928 the capitalization would be increased by a third? A. Yes.

Q. But $60.00 per share put into the treasury of the Company? A. Yes.

Q. Now, 1928, were you connected with the Company then? A. I joined the Company in 1928.

Q. In what capacity? A. Well, I had no capacity. I was sent over to look around.

Q. You are a kind of lucky man? A. Yes, I was sent to look around.

Q. You mean learn the business? A. No, studying the conditions of the plant.

Q. I see. Well then, in studying the conditions of the plant probably you can give me some information then. I see in 1928 they had a net profit of $216,799.81? A. Yes.

Q. And there were declared in dividends that year the regular $4.00 dividend and $1.50 bonus, wasn't it? A. I understand so.

Q. Yes. So that we have $5.50 on the new capitalization which would be three times what the old capitalization was, or $17.50 a share on the capitalization before 1920? A. Yes.

MR. LAJOIE: Just a minute. You might repeat the question, please.

(Question repeated as follows:)

"Q. So that we have $5.50 on the new capitalization which would be three times what the old capitalization was, or $17.50 a share on the capitalization before 1930?" A. Yes."

MR. McRUER: Now, is there any question about that, because I do not want any improper suggestion to arise out of any of my questions.

MR. LAJOIE: The only thing is, he entered the Company in 1928 as supervisor and he is not so familiar with the facts as his father would be. His father was the President of the Company.

MR. McRUER: Oh well, that is true. I will probably examine the father later on.

THE COMMISSIONER: But the figures seemto speak for themselves.

MR. McRUER: Yes, as far as that goes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Lajoie, these figures seem to speak for themselves . Now, if there is something that requires to be explained to us you can bring that forward later on.

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, I will take a note of that, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then I see in 1928, the Directors ---

MR. McRUER: I think probably I am a little modest, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: In not making the figures speak loudly enough?

MR. McRUER: They are not speaking with as loud a voice as they might speak, sir. I notice in the Annual report the following:

"On January 16th, 1928, your directors issued 17,500 shares of no-par value of the capital stock of the Company at $80.00 per share, payable in eight equal instalments, the last payment being due October 1st, 1928."

BY MR. McRUER: Q. This is the annual report as of the 30th June, 1928? A. Yes.

Q. So that apparently another 17,500 shares were issued, and for which $80 was received by the Treasury? A. Yes.

Q. So that the capitalization of the company would now be, at the time this dividend was declared, four times what it was before 1921? A. Well, I would not like to answer that question without going through the books.

Q. Well, we will get that. A. The original capitalization in 1922, --

Q. Well, we will just look at that and see. The capital stock issued, 52,500 shares? A. Yes.

Q. In that annual report of 1928, and prior to 1921, it was 17,500? A. Yes, sir, four times.

Q. Now, instead of the dividend at $5.50 a share that year being at the rate of $17.50 I should have said $22.00? A. Well, there is some question, Mr. McRuer, at that time; I would not like to answer exactly what happened there before acknowledging that statement.

Q. In fairness, it is subject to this comment: that into the treasury had come $60.00 a share for one issue of 17,500 and $80.00 a share for the one issue of 17,500? A. Yes, sir.

Q. But you cannot tell me what the market price was on those shares at the time they were issued at $60.00 and $80.00 a share? A. No, I cannot.

Q. I should think it would be considerably over that? A. I would not like to say without reference.

MR. LANCTOT: The ~~rates~~ rights were $15.00; we have the statement $15,00 and $8.25.

MR. McRUER: That is 1928, is it?

9 MR. LANCTOT: Yes.

MR. McRUER: So that, in 1928, a shareholder who, in addition to getting his dividends, would get a bonus of $15.00 a share.

MR. LANCTOT: They had to bring the capital the same as the rest.

MR. McRUER: Yes, but they did not bring it in at the market price. I am not criticising that; it is a natural transaction. I just wanted the facts.

MR. LANCTOT: They had just one right, for every four shares that were held.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: They have what?

MR. LANCTOT: They were entitled to one new share for every four shares they held.

THE COMMISSIONER: But, nevertheless, the whole issue was bought?

MR. LANCTOT: It was bought by the new capital, one for four.

MR. McRUER: Yes. We will find out what each shareholder got out of that eventually.

MR. McRUER: Q. Then there is a statement here that I do not very well understand. I do not know whether you can clear it up or not. This is of the year 1928, the year that the shares were issued, and a dividend of $5,50 paid on the increased capitalization:

"In submitting the financial statements, your directors direct that the revision of tariff, taken in conjunction with conditions prevailing in the cotton industry both in England and America, have affected the marketing of your Company's products, with a consequent reduction of profits."

THE COMMISSIONER: Now, what year was that, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: That was in 1928, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER: In June?

MR. McRUER: June, 1928.

THE COMMISSIONER: What was the tariff rearrangement referred to there?

MR. McRUER: There was a tariff rearrangement in

the budget of 1928, a slight re-arrangement. I do not see how it could have been very effective on this year's business.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. What profits did you expect to get when you complained to the shareholders about the effect of the tariff on your profits?

A. You would have to ask the President that.

Q. I would have to ask the President that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You are not responsible for drafting this statement? A. Well, I did not have anything to do with it.

Q. All right. Well, I shall not impose it on you but I am afraid I shall have to ask the President. Well then, we come down to 1929. In 1929 your operating profit was $81,949.00? A. Yes, sir.

Q. There was a big drop there? A. Yes,sir.

Q. And your interest on investments was $73,918.00? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was that investment in the subsidiary companies? A. I could not tell you.

Q. Well, there is Shawinigan bonds, St. Maurice bonds, and Shawinigan stock? A. It would be interest from the bonds.

Q. The dividends for the first quarter was $1 .00 a share, and apparently that was the only dividend that was paid that year? A. I elieve so.

Q. And I see there is a complaint here about the

low prices from Great Britain and the United States and the downward revision of the tariff, and also owing to change of fashion there has been a great falling off in the demand for fine cotton goods, which we specialise in. Then it goes on to say:

> "Your company is therefore paying greater attention to developing the manufacture of colored cotton goods, also the manufacture of artificial silk goods."

I was wondering if you knew anything about the change in fasion which caused the great falling off in the demand for fine white cotton goods? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know about that? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was it? A. About that time, or up to that time, the Wabasso Company had been weaving white goods and white goods only. In those days the ladies wore large petticoats, and a great deal of yardage went into under garments. Then the first development of rayon artificial silk came on the market, and the demand for the fine white cotton goods for underwear and under garments dropped rapidly. That year the production of the mill went right off until we were operating, if I remember rightly, two to three days a week. It was at that time that the directors decided to build the dye works and print works to take up the production which was lost through white goods.

Q. Well, that would be a change in merchandising?
A. A complete change in manufacturing too.

Q. Yes, due to change of styles over the world?
A. The advent of artificial silk.

Q. Yes, a new product had come on the market that was competing with you? A. Yes.

Q. And the girls had stopped wearing those voluminous petticoats? A. Well, you are older than I am.

Q. They had got shorter about that time too, had they not? A. I believe so.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Well, did you expect that the coloured material would serve anothe purpose? A. Well, there is a big trade, Mr. Commissioner, in outer garments of dress material, and things of that nautre, which have been constant throughout a great many years.

Q. And for that purpose you would require colours instead of the white? A. Yes,sir.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. And you did venture into the artificial silk business? A. We did.

Q. At that time? A. I think we produced the first cotton and rayon mixtures in this country.

Q. For dress goods? A. Cotton and celanese mixtures for dress materials and underwear.

Q. Did you ever weave any rayon? A. We have weaved rayon in the last -- oh for a very short

period before abandoning the artificial silk market.

Q. When did you abandon the artificial silk market? A. I would say early in 1932, if I remember rightly.

Q. I am going to comment about that later on; I do not want to get mixed up. Well, I notice that you have a raw cotton inventory in 1929 of $2,048,493. A. Yes.

Q. Now then, in 1930, we have a consolidated balance sheet.

MR. LAJOIE: You said "Inventory of raw cotton;" there is something else in there.

MR. McRUER: Yes; that includes partly manufactured and manufactured stock supplies.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. We have now the consolidated balance sheet of the Wabasso Cotton and subsidiary companies. What was the object in consolidating the balance sheets? A. You would have to ask the President about that, Mr. McRuer. I cannot answer that question.

Q. You don't know? A. I don't know.

Q. Because for comparative purposes it becomes a little difficult for us to compare those balance sheets ~~wk~~ with the previous lone having been consolidated. I see the profits for the year ending 30th of June, 1930, after deducting all manufacturing and all other charges and expenses, but before providing for depreciation, etc., was

$415,000, but depreciation has jumped here now from $150,000 in preceding balance sheets to $249,000. But I presume it is fair to say, that there was more plant in this consolidated balance sheet than there was in the preceding one? A. Yes, sir.

Q. I shall have to come to it with someone who can explain it. There was a writing off of the capital stock as against the depreciation of the Shawinigan Company prior to this. I do not suppose you know anything about that? A. I know nothing about that.

Q. Well, it is rather an accountant's proposition, but I would like it explained some time.

MR. LAJOIE: You refer to a consolidated statement; that only comprises one company.

MR. McRUER: I brought that out, that it was a consolidated balance sheet but that there would be more plant in the consolidated balance sheet than there would be in the preceding one.

THE COMMISSIONER: That explains the increased amount for depreciation?

MR. McRUER: It might, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. The statement of 1931 shows a profit for the year, before deducting depreciation, etc., of $443,213.33; interest on investments $72,518, in round figures, or a total of $520,000 in round figures. Then there is

depreciation $222,000; bond interest, $256,000; sinking fund $25,000; bond discount $12,000, leaving a net profit of $3,648 for that year. A. Yes.

Q. Now, I see under the item "raw cotton" $2,043,000. That is, raw cotton, partly manufactured and manufactured stock, supplies, etc., I suppose. Now, we are getting down to 1931 when you would have a little more intimate knowledge of the affairs at that time? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then we come to 1932. The balance sheet in 1932 shows an operating profit of $174,616.72; interest on investments seems to be down $10,000 for some reason, or $9,000. But this shows a net loss for the year of $283,705. Do you know anything about that loss, Mr. Whitehead? A. Yes, Mr. McRuer.

Q. What brought that about? A. That loss was particularly due to manufacturing losses, but it was more due to the running down of the inventories due to the drop of the raw cotton market from about 25 cents a pound to six cents.

Q. Can you tell us how much of that loss was due to the loss in raw cotton? A. I cannot separate that for you, but I know that was the case at the time.

THE COMMISSIONER: That was the loss in the raw cotton?

MR. McRUER: The raw cotton inventory, my lord.

THE WITNESS: The raw cotton and manufactured stock.

MR. McRUER: It says here Inventory of raw cotton, partly manufactured, and manufactured stock, supplied, etc.

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, I see.

BY MR. McRUER: Then it shows $1,300,000 loss in the inventory in 1932. Of course, they might carry a lower inventory, but that would be shown either in profit and loss, or in business; but there was , as a matter of fact, a large loss incurred by reason of the drop in the price of ~~profit~~ cotton? A. Yes, sir.

Q. But don't you think that the company knows now how much they lost in raw cotton that year? A. It will be in the books.

Q. Well, I would like you to get it for me, because there are certain things in this statement that we want to be able to give due weight to and understand the meaning of.

Q. Then in the Director's report of this year, 1932,--- what time did you become managing director? A. The Fall of 1932, after the publication of that statement.

Q. After the publication of this report? A. Yes, sir.

Q. It reads as follows:

"The result of the year's operations is fully set forth in the appended consolidated

Profit and Loss Account, from which it will be observed that, after making provision for all charges, including Bond Interest, Sinking Fund, and Bond Discount, and making allowance for depreciation of Property and Plant, there is a net loss of $283,705.13. This amount has been deducted from Surplus which brings the balance to be carried forward to $103,137.21.

In submitting this report, your Directors regret that the operations of your Company have resulted in a loss for the year. This loss has been largely brought about by keen foreign competition and the downward trend of selling prices and by the continued business depression."

What was the keen foreign competition that you were suffering from in 1932? A. 1932?

Q. Yes? A. Well, at that time there was a tremendous amount of competition coming in from the United States and from England, I believe.

Q. Well, to begin with, England is not a foreign country yet? A. No, except it is abroad.

MR. LAJOIE: In business, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. But you refer to importations from England. Is that what they are referring to here? A. Importations from England, yes.

Q. Well now, you had a higher tariff than you had ever had in your lives before this time. This annual report is up to the 30th of June, 1932? A. Yes.

Q. And the Ottawa agreements had not been entered into until August, 1932? A. Yes.

Q. So that the tariff was at its highest level you had ever had? A. At the highest level in the Bennett tariff.

Q. At this time? A. Yes.

Q. We will deal with that in this inquiry, just exactly what the protection was.

THE COMMISSIONER: It was, Mr. McRuer, the highest level up to that period.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are not including it down to to-day?

MR. McRUER: I think it was the highest it had ever been.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you comparing it as against British goods

MR. McRUER: Against the world.

THE COMMISSIONER: It was the highest, in 1932?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Higher than to-day?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. In 1930, the rate from Great Britain was 17½ for grey and 3 cents a pound specific.

MR. LAJOIE: Less ten per cent.

MR. McRUER: Less 10 per cent., yes. Bleached

20 per cent. and 3 pents a pound coloured.

MR. LAJOIE: Less ten per cent.

MR. McRUER: All the British are less 10 per cent. Coloured 22½ and 3 cents a pound, less 10 per cent. The intermediate was 20 per cent. and 3½ cents a pound. Bleach 22½ per cent. and 3½ cents a pound;coloured;27½ per cent. and 3½ cents a pound. The general was grey 25 per cent. and 4 cents a pound; bleached 27½ percent. and 4 cents per pound; coloured 22½ cents or 22½ per cent. and 4 cents per pound. Then in 1932, the only change that was made in respect to these was, that under the British preference the specific duty was reduced to 2 cents a pound instead of 3½ cents a pound. The ad valorum remained the same. The specific duty was reduced to 2 instead of 3.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is on British goods only?

MR. McRUER: On British goods only, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: But the ad valorum remained the same?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: What about that 10 per cent.?

MR. McRUER: Well, there is a ten per cent. deduction on British preference. That remains the same all the time.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead,I would like if you could tell me what customs tariff you feel the cotton industry ought to have to overcome

this foreign competition that is complained about in the annual report?

THE COMMISSIONER: Pardon me, Mr. McRuer. The last annual report you discussed here was 1932?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: And you are asking him what protection should be enforced to-day, are you?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Would it not be better to bring up the other reports to see what the protection is to-day. Is it not the same as in 1932?

MR. McRUER: With the exception that the British Preference is one cent a pound less to Great Britain. Otherwise it is the same.

THE COMMISSIONER: And the Ad valorum?

MR. McRUER: The Ad valorum is the same, and the specific is the same against foreign countries, but a cent a pound less to Great Britain.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right put your question.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. What customs duty do you think ought to be imposed if they were not high enough prior to the 30th of June, 1932? A. You are asking what Canadian duty I think ought to be imposed, to-day or then?

Q. No, the duty at that time. Evidently in your annual report to the shareholders you were complaining about this competition in Canada,

during the year prior to June 30th, 1932. Now, I am wondering what customs duty would satisfy the officers of this Company?

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer, perhaps Mr. Whitehead is not complaining to-day. He was complaining in 1932.

THE WITNESS: I should say, Mr. McRuer, that that statement had reference to British dumping more than actual tariffs.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. To British dumping?

A. Yes.

Q. I see. Well, there has been no increase in customs duty, or any dumping laws against Great Britain since 1932? A. On the other hand, they have been reduced.

Q. Yes. A. The situation is more aggravated to-day than it was then.

Q. I see. You feel that you have not got sufficient protection against Great Britain now? A. Sufficient protection against Great Britain in dumping.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Is dumping still going on? A. Yes, sir.

Q. To the same extent now as in 1932, or to a greater extent? A. I would say to an extent that is doing greater damage to us to-day than it did in 1932, because the prices are considerably less than they were in 1932.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. The prices are lower here? A. The prices quoted by the English are lower than they were in 1932.

Q. Yes, but the prices are lower all over than they were in 1932? A. Oh yes.

Q. Well, as a matter of fact, what really did cause your loss was the drop in raw cotton? A. Not entirely.

Q. Well, I would like you to just indicate how much? A. At that particular period we were operating, to a great extent, the original English machinery that was installed in the Mill, and the operating efficiency was very low, and the operating costs were extremely high.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. In 1932? A. In 1932, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, I am coming to some of that in a moment. You had installed some new machinery about that time? A. We had been installing the automatic looms at some date prior to that date, but had not installed them in any big quantity.

Q. Well, in 1931, in June, 1931, I have the price of spot cotton in New York as $9.05, and in June, 1932, $5.28? A. Will you correct that, Mr. McRuer, to cents?

Q. Yes, 9.05 cents per pound. I was giving it to you in hundred pounds. And in 1932 it was

5.28 cents? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Which was a drop pretty close to 50 per cent.? A. That was at it s lowest point, in 1932.

Q. Yes, and that is the time of your annual statement? A. Showing the big loss.

Q. Yes, showing the big loss. Now, had your Company, or any of your subsidiary companies, been buying futures in cotton? A. It is not our practice, Mr. McRuer, to buy futures in cotton.

Q. That is not quite the question I asked you, Mr. Whitehead. A. No.

Q. At that time, had your Company, or any of your subsidiary companies, been buying futures in cotton? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Well, was there anything in regard to the change in management, - did that have anything to do with this drop, or loss? A. In buying cotton, Mr. McRuer, there is always speculation in the ordinary business, no matter how conservative the firm. The purchasing of cotton is allied very closely to the purchasing of wheat, or any other world commodity. We have got to buy futures in order to cover our commitments.

Q. Yes., but the question I had just asked you before was, did the fact that the management changed just at that time have anything to do with the fact that you had lost a large sum of money on raw cotton? A. I have no personal knowledge of the reasons why the management came, but I under-

stand Mr. Aird had got an offer of a better position at Valleyfield with the Montreal Cotton Company.

Q. That may be, but I am not asking you at the moment about your personal knowledge. Is it not a fact that the change in management was brought about due to the loss in raw cotton? A. No, sir.

Q. Well, did it have something to do with it? A. No, sir.

Q. Nothing to do with it whatever? A. No, sir.

Q. Well, why did you not tell me that just a little earlier? A. Well, you are asking me a definite question which I am answering. The resignation was not actually handed into me although I was aware of the circumstances of the case.

Q. Did Mr. Aird just merely leave because he had got a better position? A. He left, I understand, because he and I did not agree very well.

Q. Well, might it be, that you did not agree with his policy on the purchase of raw cotton? A. No, with his policy on the operating of the plant.

Q. I see. What was your point of disagreement on that?

MR. LAJOIE: I do not think that that has any bearing on the inquiry.

THE COMMISSIONER: No, I do not think it has, Mr. Lajoie. I do not think you should ask the question, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: All right, my lord. But I think it is important, sir, as far as it reflects in the losses that were made over a period at this time.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now then, in the annual report of 1933, I see that in the year, 1933, there was a profit of $21,443 as compared with a loss of $283,000 in the previous year. That was the first year of your management? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you provided for depreciation of $285,400? A. Yes, Mr. McRuer.

Q. And your raw cotton supplies there seemed to be $957,000? A. Raw cotton, partly manufactured.

Q. Including partly manufactured and manufactured stock, so that it would appear, Mr. Whitehead, that that last loss in 1932 was not so much due to foreign competition as something of an internal nature in this company? A. Would you explain what you mean by "Internal nature"?

Q. Well, something in the particular merchandising rather than general conditions? A. I would say that your assumption was not absolutely correct, Mr. McRuer.

Q. I see. Well, the duty against Great Britain was lowered between 1932 and 1933? A. Yes.

Q. So that the blame that was attached to that in the 1932 report would hardly seem to be borne

out by the experience afterwards? A. You have got to take manufacturing into account also. You cannot deal with one without dealing with the other.

Q. Well then, we come to the 1934 report, and you show a profit of $146,743.

MR. LAJOIE: I would like to ask Mr. McRuer if he would allow my client to have in his hand the txx tariff.

MR. McRUER: You mean the customs tariff from time to time?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, 1929 to 1934 and 1935, because he is obliged to answer off-hand to your questions.

MR. McRUER: Oh yes, I have no objection to that.

MR. LAJOIE: And he has no big figures before him.

MR. McRuer: I have no objections whatever.

But this is a calculation that is worked out and I have no idea how it is arrived at.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well then, we come down to 1935, and your net profit again seems to be $147,629? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well now, to speak in a general way, this Company seems to have prospered a great deal better between 1921 and 1930 than it has since 1930? A. I think most companies in the country during that period prospered a great deal more than they have during the last few years.

Q. Yes, that may be, but I am just talking about your company now? A. Yes.

Q. Well now, I would like you to follow me with the wages paid over this period of years, as far as we can.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you getting at the wages now?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Did your Company manufacture anything else but cotton? A. Yes, we ran a few blends composed of percentage yarns, which are certain percentages of wool and artificial silk mixed in them.

Q. But you are essentially cotton manufacturers? A. Yes, my lord.

Q. And your principal outside competition comes from where, Great Britain? A. Our principal outside competition at the present time comes from Great Britain and a certain amount from the United States.

Q. Do you put Great Britain first and the United States second? A. Yes.

Q. And outside of them is there any third competitor? A. We are to-day starting to receive competition from Japanese manufacturers.

Q. Of cotton? A. Of cotton goods.

Q. Just starting now? A. Just starting, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. May I ask you a question? Can you refer me to the competition that you are receiving from Japanese manufacturers? Has there been any imported goods come in within the last three months? A. I would not make a statement as to the exact amount being imported into Canada in the last three months, but we are being, at the present time, subjected to the competition of Japanese quotations which may be used to force our price structure downwards.

Q. Well, the Japanese quotation, that cannot be imported at a lower price than yours, that is, a competing article is not going to force your price down, is it, unless they can get it in here over the duty barrier? A. If the merchants are buying at the prices which they are showing us then it can come in here at that price.

Q. All right. Now, you give me the names of any merchants that had bought or say they have bought articles that have come through Japan or from Japan in the last three months since the change in the tariff? A. Gordon McKay of Toronto.

Q. Gordon McKay of Toronto have bought what? A. We saw an invoice the other day.

Q. For how much?

MR. LAJOIE: Just let him finish, please.

THE WITNESS: We saw an invoice the other day. I did not see it myself, Mr. McRuer, but my sales

officers reported that they had seen in Gordon McKay's an invoice covering 50 items imported from Japan.

Q. Imported and cleared through the Customs?
A. Imported and cleared through the Customs, yes.

Q. Well, I would like to know what Port they were cleared through?
A. Well, I would suggest, Mr. McRuer, that you are better able to get that information than I am.

Q. Well, we will find out where they came through. And have you got the prices so that I can verify them? A. No, they were not able to get a copy of the invoice, but we were shown it.

Q. Oh, I see. Then, you have not got even a copy of the invoice with the prices and the specifications of the goods?

MR. LANCTOT: We will give that to you, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: Well, give them to us now and we will have them checked up.

MR. LANCTOT: We will be giving some to you every day, practically.

MR. McRUER: You are doing a lot of talking.

MR. LANCTOT: Talking facts.

MR. McRUER: We will check it up.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, do you know how the tariff in Canada as against Japan compares with the tariff in the United States? A. I would not

like to quote the figures without the books in front of me, but I do know it is considerably higher than from the United States.

Q. That the Canadian Tariff is higher against Japan than the tariff in the United States?

A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is, you want to know whether the Canadian tariff against Japan is higher than the American tariff against Japan?

THE WITNESS: Oh yes, excuse me; that was not my understanding. I understood you asked me if the Canadian tariff against Japan was higher than the Canadian tariff against America?

BY MR. McRUER: Yes. Well, do you know?

A. Which question?

Q. Do you know whether the Canadian tariff against Japan is higher or lower than the American tariff against Japan? A. I cannot answer that question.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Well then, what about the question you thought you were answering, that is to say, is the Canadian tariff against Japan higher than the Canadian tariff against the United States?

A. Considerable.

(Page 1070 follows)

Q. Now, I want to deal with the subject of wages for a few minutes with you. Have you got any records that would give me the scale of wages paid by your company since 1921? A. No, sir.

Q. Are you not in a position to give us anything on the rate of wages paid prior to 1930? A. You have got all the information that is available in the company.

Q. No, no, I am asking you just so I may get a direct answer to the question. Iam asking you, are you not in a position to give us any information whatever in regard to the rates of wages paid by your company prior to 1930? A. Well, before I answer that question, Mr. McRuer, I would like a little more, a little better chance to have the question put to me. You have asked for -- already asked for certain information in regard to wages and we have given you certain information which dates back further than 1931.

Q. Well, I am asking you for rates of wages.
A. What do you mean by rates of wages?

Q. I mean rates of wages, rates of pay, how much a man gets for an hour's work or for piece work?
A. I just -- I am just -- I just don't quite know how to answer the question for you because I don't know what information you have actually got. I don't want to say no and then have you turn around and say I have given you something already.

Q. Yes, but, you see the position is this. I want to know first what you have got, not what you have

given me. I know what you have given me. I want to know what you have got, if I may just put it that way. Are you in a position to tell me what the rates of pay were prior to 1930?

A. Accurately?

Q. Well, accurately or approximately or any other way? A. Accurately or completely, no.

Q. Well, approximately, then? A. No.

Q. Can you give me any information?

A. I mean my reply, Mr. McRuer -- when I say accurately and completely I mean we cannot give you rates of pay accurately and completely prior to 1931.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Prior to what year?

A. 1931.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Surely you can tell me what a doffer got prior to 1930 or what a weaver got prior to 1930? A. I could by most likely asking certain overseers, I could get that information for you.

Q. Is there nothing of record about your company that would tell us that? A. There is no record.

Q. What happened to the records in connection with the rates of pay prior to 1930?

A. Those records, after they had been finished with and the operating methods of the company had been changed, were not kept.

Q. You see, Mr. Whitehead, we are studying two

different periods in this industry, one period in which it had very high protection and another period in which it didn't have such high protection, and it is a matter of interest to us to find out how the wage earner fared prior to the high protection and how he has fared since, and I want to get all the information I can from your company. A. Unfortunately, I was not in charge of that work, had no charge of those records prior to that date. Since I have had charge the records are complete.

Q. Surely there is something about your company that if you want to go back and study the history of your company, that you would be able to tell us from it the rates of pay that x men got just six or seven years ago? A. I don't think you will find records going back past 1930.

Q. Were they all destroyed?

A. Yes.

Q. Who destroyed them? A. We destroyed them.

Q. Who did? A. The company.

Q. Who, who had charge of the destruction of the records? A. The overseers had charge.

Q. Who had? I want to find out the name of the man. A. I destroyed some of my own records.

Q. I mean these wage records --

MR. LAJOIE: Is there any law obliging them to keep wage records?

MR. McRUER: I am not suggesting there is.

MR. LAJOIE: You seem to have committed him as having made a breach or an offence. If there is any law he is liable if he has done it.

MR. McRUER: You can do anything you like with them.

MR. LAJOIE: Legally.

MR. McRUER: Yes, quite right.

Q. Who was the person who actually destroyed the wage records? A. They were destroyed, Mr. McRuer, by the various overseers or offices who kept those records.

Q. Who was the overseer, or what office would keep the wage records? A. The pay roll offices.

Q. They would keep the pay rolls?
A. They keep the pay roll records.

Q. You would have some definite record that was made out independent of the actual pay roll that would show the scale on which a man was entitled to be paid? A. At the time in which the pays were in operation these rates are kept but as soon as the schedules of pay are changed after a certain period of years these records become obsolete and old, and have been thrown away and burned.

Q. Alright; what period of years is it that elapses until you decide that they are obsolete and should be burned? A. Five years.

Q. Well then, when were the records destroyed?
A. In 1930.

Q. Yes, but I want a record of prior to 1930?

A. You cannot get them.

Q. I know, but five years would not elapse in 1930. I am satisfied to take the spring of 1930 record if I can get it. When would the record of the spring of 1930 be destroyed? A. The record of the spring of 1930 was destroyed at the end of December, 1935.

Q. At the end of December, 1935; who destroyed the records at the end of December, 1935, or was it done in January, 1935 -- in January, 1936?

A. The actual date I would not say on which they were taken away, but they are usually done about the end of the year.

Q. Were these records, prior records, destroyed since this Commission was appointed? A. No, sir.

Q. You are quite sure about that?

A. Posive.

Q. Well now, who was it that would destroy the wage records prior to 1930? A. The various people who have charge of these records.

Q. Name me the man that would destroy?

A. Mr. Turcotte in the weave room office.

Q. Alright; I will deal with some of the records that we have got. I asked you to prepare a schedule showing the wages paid and the production in yarn and cloth over a period of years. These are the total wages paid? A. Yes.

Q. You still have these records?

A. They are taken from the Census of Industry.

Q. The Census of Industry Book. We will just run over these. We will go back to 1926. The wages -- we will take -- you have a column for yarn; that is yarn sold? A. Yarn sold.

Q. You give me the pounds and value; that is the selling price, that is the selling value of the yarn? A. Selling value -- invoice value.

Q. Invoice value; quite right; then, we have cloth in yards and the value. That would be the invoice value of the cloth? A. The invoice value.

Q. So that to get the total output in value we have to add together the column of the value of the yarn to the column for the value of the cloth?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, in 1926 you produced in round figures one million -- or rather four million, practically $4,300,000? A. $4,200,000.

Q. $4,200,000 worth of yarn and cloth?

A. Yes.

Q. And the proportion -- you paid out in wages $1,043,000? A. Yes.

Q. The proportion I figure to be 27% in wages?

A. If you are correct.

Q. Yes; then we come down to the year 1928. You had an output of $42,800,000? A. Yes.

Q. You paid out in wages $1,500,000?

A. Yes.

Q. Or 32%? A. 32% of what?

Q. 32% of the value? A. Went to wages?

Q. Went to wages. A. Yes, if you are correct.

Q. If we are correct; well, I think you will find it correct. Then we get down to 1935; the total output is in round figures $4,800,000 and the amount paid in wages is $971,000 or 20.1%?

A. If those figures are correct that should be correct.

Q. So that you will agree with me that the proportion paid in wages to total output is greatly reduced in 1935 over what it was in 1926, 1927, 1928?

A. That is quite correct, and very understandable.

MR. LANCTOT: What is your last percentage?

MR. McRUER: 20%, 20.1%.

THE WITNESS: The reason is entirely due to the changed methods of operation and the introduction of the automatic machine, and naturally the labour content is considerably reduced.

Q. Well, that is interesting; so, when did you start to change into the automatic machine?

A. We started changing around --

MR. LAJOIE: I don't want to interrupt, but may I suggest that the price of the raw cotton would affect that.

MR. McRUER: I think that is against you. When we go into that I will deal with it.

MR. LAJOIE: Alright.

MR. McRUER: The witness has told us about it. He is the manager of the business. He says it is due and is understandable because of the change in the method of operation.

Q. I am asking you now when did you start to put in the automatic machines? A. We started in around -- fairly rapidly after 1932.

Q. Yes; now, just so that we will clear away the suggestion made by my friend in regard to the price of raw cotton having anything to do with this I notice on the table that he has been good enough to furnish to me that the price of raw cotton on June 30, 1935 was $11.93 and in 1928 on the same date it was $21.54.

MR. LAJOIE: What is that? I want to follow you.

MR. McRUER: I say you suggested --

MR. LAJOIE: No, that sheet you have.

MR. McRUER: This sheet is one that was given me.

Q. So that the price of raw cotton --

A. Would you repeat that question.

Q. According to this sheet that was furnished to me the price of raw cotton on the 30th of June, 1935 was $11.93 and on the same date in 1928 $21.54 so that it was almost twice as much in 1928 as it was in 1935. So that the proportion of wages to value of output would be more out of line still when the raw cotton is down? A. I cannot answer that question because I don't quite follow the figuring.

Q. Well, probably we better just -- in 1935 your total output in value was $4,800,000?

A. Yes, but you are not considering the yardage.

Q. I am considering the value.

A. You have got to consider the yardage.

Q. You cannot consider the yardage where you have got yarn and cloth together.

A. Well, weight, then.

Q. I want to clear this question as to the price of raw cotton entering into it. A. That is where you have got to consider the weight.

Q. I suggest it goes against you here. The value in that amount of $4,800,000 -- the value of raw cotton would be very much less when raw cotton is down than when it is up, wouldn't it?

A. The value --

Q. The value of raw cotton in this case, in that figure, would be very much less when raw cotton is down than when it is up? A. Yard for yard or weight for weight, yes.

Q. Well, the value when you sell four million dollars worth of stuff, if you pay twice as much for your raw cotton, in the four million dollars the price paid for the raw cotton is twice as much?

A. That is not correct, Mr. McRuer.

Q. Why isn't it? A. Because that four million dollars -- the four million dollars of one year might represent 20,000,000 yards or speaking of pounds it might represent 5,000,000 pounds

of raw cotton whereas that raw cotton on the same value -- sales for the same value at a later date might represent ten million pounds of raw cotton. In other words you are using twice as much cotton in the amount as you are at the previous period.

Q. Well, we will check your yardage, too. How can we put together yarn and cloth so as to get a unit?

A. By weight.

Q. For instance, in 1928 you produced 2,192,000 pounds of yarn? A. Yes.

Q. And 16,000,000 yards of cloth?

A. Well, approximately you can take four yards to the pound for an average.

Q. That would make -- A. That would make 4,000,000 pounds -- 6,000,000 pounds of yarn -- 6,000,000 pounds of raw cotton.

Q. No. How much yarn would 2,000,000 pounds -- how much cloth would 2,000,000 pounds of yarn represent? A. You can put it by weight of raw cotton.

Q. Well, that gets us far too complicated.

A. No, it gets you easier.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer, what you want to find out can be established, can it not? That is, the price to the mill of this raw cotton per yard or per pound at a certain time as compared to another time. You can establish that, can't you?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

THE WITNESS: You can establish it approximately.

but not actually.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I don't know why it should not be made actual.

THE WITNESS: Because there are so many different constructions and different weights entering into it that the work of producing that record would be tremendously laborious and even after you had it would not be actual because there are so many things in the cotton industry that have got to be estimated and cannot be given accurately.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I think you and I probably are fairly in agreement on it, anyway, Mr. Whitehead, from the way you are explaining the reason for the difference. I figure that in 1935 the wages represent 20.1 of your output in value?

A. I admitted that.

Q. And in 1928 they represented 32.7 of your output? A. I admitted that but explained it.

Q. Your explanation is it is due to the introduction of the automatic looms in the meantime, rather automatic machinery and the reduction of the labour content in your product. A. That is one reason.

Q. Now, I suggest to you that your rates of wages are much lower now than they were in 1928? A. We have not denied that.

Q. Well then, can you tell me how much lower your rates of wages are per hour, roughly per hour?

A. What date did you give us?

Q. Lower than 1928? A. Yes, on the whole I should say they were about 10% less than they were at that date.

Q. Now, you do not suggest that when you are applying for an increase in tariff before the Tariff Board in 1927 that you would not represent the wages you paid accurately? A. Pardon?

Q. I say you would not suggest that the rates of wages paid by this company would not be accurately stated to the Tariff Board in 1927?

A. Well, I didn't study them, Mr. McRuer, but it is not the company's policy to state these things inaccurately.

Q. So that we come to this conclusion and I think you agree with me, that since 1928 the proportion of labour in the output of the company has been reduced from about 32% to 20%? A. I have agreed with that.

Q. So that it would be a correct statement, would it not, to that extent the protection that has been afforded to this company has been a protection on the output of machines to that much greater extent?

A. Well, now --

Q. Rather than the output of hand labour?

A. I would like you to repeat that so I can follow it more carefully.

MR. LANCTOT: That is more argument than question, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: There may be an answer. It is not argument.

MR. LANCTOT: We will discuss that question.

MR. McRUER: I have an expert in the box at the moment.

THE WITNESS: I would like the question more clearly put before I answer it.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, put it again, Mr. McRuer.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. You agree with me that it is fair to say that the labour element in the output has been reduced from 1928 from 32% to 20% in 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is a fact.

MR. McRUER: That is a fact. We have established that now.

Q. Then, if that be true, the protection that has been afforded to the output of this company has been a protection on the output of machines to that much greater extent? A. In answering that question, Mr. McRuer, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that while we are discussing wages and percentage of wages the introduction of the automatic machinery with its consequent reduction in labour content has allowed us to increase the number of employees -- increase the number of employees at our employ.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Increase the number of employees? A. Increase the number of employees in our employ due to the great deal greater production we are able to turn out, or at least to the greatly cheaper price we are able to turn out our

merchandise at and therefore obtain greater production or greater sales

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Is this the statement you had prepared in response to my request?
A. That is the statement.

Q. You have prepared a statement showing the number of employees from 1917 to 1936. In 1928 the total number of employees was 2450?
A. That is correct.

Q. And in 1936 or 1935, to keep within this year which we are dealing with, the total number of employees was 1858? A. That is correct.

Q. How do you say that the increase -- or the installation of the automatic loom has enabled you to increase the number of your employees?
A. Well, wait till I answer that question correctly for you. May I say that --

Q. I am afraid I must have misunderstood what you said. A. No, you are correct, but you have skipped all the intervening years, you know.

Q. I am dealing with two years at the moment?
A. You skip the intervening years. You are failing to take the whole picture because in 1928 while we admit having 2400 employees we were actually carrying out our operations with the English loom and the English machinery and the English system.

Q. I suggest to you -- A. On changing --

MR. LAJOIE: Let him finish.

THE WITNESS: On changing that method of manufacture

to the American system the number of employees dropped from 2400 to 1600 but due to the decrease in costs that number has crept up to 1900 again which is an increase over what it was at that period.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. When was there 1600?

A. 1600 was in 1930.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. So that in between 1929 and 1930 you installed these automatic machines?

A. Between --

Q. Evidently between 1929 and 1930?

A. No, we started.

Q. Well, you are giving the reason for the drop in the number of employees from 2450 in 1928 to 1637 in 1930 that you installed automatic machines?

A. We started.

Q. Yes, well-- A. We have not completed yet.

Q. You have not completed it yet. Then, may we take it that you will further reduce the number of employees per output after you have fully completed the installation of the automatic machines?

A. We will --

Q. And that this 20% will be down below 20, something below 20? A. Will you repeat that?

Q. I say may we take it that when you have fully completed the installation of the automatic machines that you will be able to increase your output per number of employees and that this 20% will be lower, still lower? A. We would be able to increase our output per --

Q. Per number of employees? A. No.

Q. I thought that is what the automatic machine did, increased the output per employee? A. It has increased the output per number of employees but at the time -- at this present period to which you are referring the output to-day has exceeded the output as it was at that date. Therefore any additional machinery you put in increases the output but the number of employees per unit remains the same.

Q. Then your output increases per number of employees, per 100 of employees you have a greater output? A. No, because you increase the number of employees for every machine you put in. You are not scrapping machinery, running machinery to instal automatic machinery.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You are talking of additional machinery, not substitutional? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I thought you said you had not fully converted the factory into automatic machines; it was not complete? A. Yes, but the number of non-automatic machines which are in the factory, and occupying floor space, are idle and there is nobody being employed on them, and if the installation of automatic machinery had not been done in 1929 the whole mill would be idle to-day. X

Q. I see. Taking your yards of cloth, for instance, on this statement this shows it is 37,000-- 37,000,000? A. Yes.

Q. 37,000,000 as against 16,000,000 in 1928?

A. Yes.

Q. While your wages are down from fifteen million to $971,000? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Fifteen million?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. $1,500,000 down to $971,000?

A. Yes.

Q. That is a fair reflection, is it, on the effect of the installation of the automatic machine?

A. Yes.

Q. I see, well -- A. Of course, that is, these statements that go with it.

Q. Yes. A. If the automatic machine was not installed I doubt whether you would have any wages being paid.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer, that sheet you have been using gives the proportion, percentage of wages in 1928 32% and for 1935 at 20 decimal something. Does it give all the intervening years?

MR. McRUER: Yes, sir, it is done in lead pencil at the edge.

THE COMMISSIONER: You better let us have that. Just read that in.

MR. LANCTOT: Was that produced as an exhibit?

MR. McRUER: This will be exhibit number --

SECRETARY WHITELEY: 75.

MR. McRUER: This will be exhibit number 75.

THE COMMISSIONER: What do we call it?

MR. McRUER: This is a statement showing the

production and wages of the Wabasso Cotton Company from 1917 to 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: Now, since we have got 1928 and 1935 on the record you better put the intervening years in too so we will know how that percentage of wages runs. It ran down a while and up again, I understand.

MR. McRUER: I will start at 1926. The percentage in 1926 was 24.7; in 1927 27%; 1928, 32.7%; in 1929, 26.9%; in 1930, 24.1%; in 1931, 24.3%; in 1932, 24.4%; in 1933, 24.9%; in 1934, 22.6%; in 1935, 20.1%.

THE COMMISSIONER: We are much past the adjournment hour now. Adjourned until two o'clock.

-- The Commission adjourned at 12.40 p.m. to resume at 2 p.m.

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AFTERNOON SESSION

Three Rivers, P.Que.
28th March, 1936.

-- On resuming at 2 o'clock P.M.

WILLIAM J. WHITEHEAD,

EXAMINATION BY MR. McRUER (resumed):

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I was asking you, Mr. Whitehead, about the numbers of employees employed over a period of years, and I just want to file this statement that has been prepared. That was prepared under your instructions?

THE COMMISSIONER: Is that the one you were using this morning?

MR. McRUER: That is the one I was using this morning, my lord. That is just the numbers; 2450 were employed in 1928 as against 1900 now.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well then, you are putting it in?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 76.

EXHIBIT 76: Statement showing number of employees employeed from 1917 to 1936.

MR. McRUER: That shows the numbers of employees from year to year, m$ lord .

THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

THE WITNESS: In answering further to that reply

as given to Mr. McRuer this morning, I had reference at the same time to the machinery. You questioned me on the point as to the mechanization of the industry you must also take into consideration that the style of cloth that was produced in the mill at the time, at the two periods 1928 and 1935, - you must consider that the styles of cloth being produced in this mill are entirely different, and have a great deal to do with the reduction in the number of employees. Not only the mechanization of the industry but also the styles have changed tremendously.

Q. Whether it is style or the mechanization of the industry, the labour factor in the output is lower now; that is the fact that I was getting at? A. Yes, the labour output is lower but it is not entirely due to the mechanization of the industry.

Q. Not entirely, all right. Well now, I have had a statement prepared from your returns to the Bureau of Statistics, which you were good enough to send to us to use for the purpose of this inquiry, which summarizes over a period of years some items in respect to labour and salaries.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is this another one, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: This will be another one, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then that will be Exhibit 77.

EXHIBIT 77: Summary of wages and salaries paid by the Wabasso Company from 1921 to 1935.

MR. LAJOIE: Is it from us, Mr. McRuer?

THE COMMISSIONER: How do you describe it, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: It is a summary of wages and salaries paid by the Wabasso Company from 1921 to 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: 1921 to 1935?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I presume that the wage item will be about the same as on your tabulation, because they are taken from the returns that you put in? A. I presume they will be.

Q. And your tabulation was taken from the census of industry book that you keep? A. Our copy of the census of Industry Report.

MR. LAJOIE: These figures prepared by you must be checked.

MR. McRUER: You can check them all you like, I have no objection to that. However, I have not checked yours. If they are wrong I want you to tell me, because there is one thing I do not want, that is, that there should be no wrong figures.

MR. LAJOIE: We are of the same opinion.

BY MR. McRUER: Now, according to this statement, the total wages paid, not including salaries, amounted to $748,678 in 1921. The salaries in that year amounted to $136,000, in round figures. I am just giving you those figures because I want to ask about them later on. The wages paid in 1928 were $1,597,000, and the salaries were $322,000. There had been an increase in wages of about, - it had about doubled what salaries were, about two and a half times as much? A. Yes.

Q. Then we get on to 1931. The wages are down to $1,106,000, but the salaries are up to $346,000. There seems to have been a going down in wages and a going up in salaries? A. Yes.

Q. Then in 1932 the wages were down to $1,036,000, and salaries were down to $298,000? A. Yes.

Q. In 1933, the salaries were $280,000, and the wages were $992,000? A. Yes.

Q. Then in 1934 wages were $1,160,000, and salaries $345,000. A. Yes.

Q. So that there was a sharp increase there. And then in 1935 wages had dropped to $971,000 while salaries were $342,000? A. Yes.

Q. Now, you see the result as I have had it worked out, that in 1935 the salaries amounted to 35 per cent. of the wages, whereas in 1921 they were 18 per cent. of the wages?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you any explanation as to how salaries have increased to such a much heavier percentages of the wages? A. That is quite understandable, Mr. McRuer, because as a company has increased in size, and as the demands for clerical work have increased, or the clerical staff both of the mill and of the local head office have increased really out of proportion to the volume of business being done - I do not know what you want in your question, but that is not due to increase in actual salaries paid to staff so much as has been due to actual increase of staff or increase of overhead.

Q. Now then, let us see. In 1928 salaries were 20 per cent. of the wages? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1935 the salaries are 35 per cent. of the wages? A. Yes.

Q. And there are only three more people employed in 1935 on salary than there were in 1928?

A. Where do you get the three more people?

Q. Well, I got it from the statistical records.

A. Where?

Q. 130 employed, as number of salary employees, and 1935, 133.

MR. LAJOIE: Where?

MR. McRUER: Taken from your returns to the Government.

THE WITNESS: That is understandable, also, Mr.

Mr. McRuer. While your payroll returns shows a decrease in money, that is affected entirely by production or by over-production, whereas your fixed salaries go on whether you have production or otherwise.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Oh well, your production in 1935 was$4,711,000. That is in the cloth, as against 1928 of $3,700,000. So that it is not a question of salaries going on and production going down because your production is up. Now, we have got the production up, the wages down and the salaries up? A. Well, that is just as understandable, because as the quality of cloth goes coarser so your payroll becomes less, whereas your salaries keep on regardless.

Q. Well, is the quality of cloth coarser in 1935 than it was in 1928? A. Considerably, and considerably coarser than 1934.

Q. I see. Well, we will look into that. But again I point out to you, that as this thing seems to have progressed through to 1935 the protection afforded seems to have increased in favour of machines and salaried employees and not in favour of the working man. A. I just don't understand that.

Q. You don't understand that. I will try and explain it to you. As you progressed from 1928 to 1935 the protection afforded this industry

seems to have been in favour of the machines and the salaried employees, and not in favour of the working man? A. Well, I would answer that question, Mr. McRuer, by saying that if that protection had not been afforded and if the industry had not mechanized you would not have an industry.

Q. I suppose if you did not keep pace with the times you would not, but you think that the life of this industry was wholly dependent on the protection it got? A. Certainly.

Q. The high protection it got? As a matter of fact, you think it is not high enough? A. I would not admit anything on that point.

Q. I am not asking you to admit anything on that point, but I would like you to suggest what is in your mind. Do you think it is high enough now? A. As far as the tariff is concerned, it is not the protection afforded by the tariff that we complain so much about. It is the lack of protection against dumping.

Q. I am just asking you one thing at a time. Do you consider that the customs duties are high enough now? A. I have answered.

Q. No, no. Leave out the question of dumping. You have a quarrel, you say, with British goods being dumped on the Canadian market.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, that is a tariff question?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I am just asking, do you consider that the tariff is high enough now?

MR. LANCTOT: It is not a case before the Tariff Board.

MR. McRUER: That is one of the things we have to enquire into.

THE COMMISSIONER: We have to go into customs tariff, of course.

MR. McRUER: I would like to get Mr. Whitehead's view on it.

THE WITNESS: I consider to-day that the tariff is sufficient to protect us; the tariff is sufficient to protect the standard of living of a community at the present level.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, just let us shorten it without an elaborate answer. Do you consider that the customs duties are adequate for the purpose of your company now ? A. Yes, providing that dumping is stopped.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Could you tell me what you mean by "dumping"? A. Selling in this market below cost of production.

Q. Selling in this market below cost of production? A. Yes.

Q. Where it is made? A. Yes, where it is made.

Q. You would need something in this market lower than Great Britain? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Do you know that there is an anti-dumping law against all foreign countries? A. I am fully aware of that, Mr. McRuer, but unfortunately it is very difficult to administer it. It is almost impossible, at times, to get the information in order to prove a case.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer, you said "all foreign countries". Do you mean Great Britain?

MR. McRUER: No, they are referredto in the tariff as "foreign countries", that is, exclusive of Great Britain.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then there remains only the United States, and after that the incipient competition. As Mr. Whitehead said, that is from Japan. Their biggest competit_or is Great Britain. Then he says second in line comes the United States, and I asked him if there was a third, and he told me about Japanese competition. Therefore, it must be the United States you have in mind when you talk of foreign competition.

MR. McRUER: Yes, sir, but there is a general clause in the tariff which can be applied as against all foreign countries on dumping.

THE WITNESS: Yes, there is a clause to that effect.

THE COMMISSIONER: But is there any anti-dumping provision as against British goods?

MR. McRUER: No, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are quite sure of that?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. At least, I am as sure as I am about anything in connection with tariffs. However, I do not pose as an authority on them.

THE WITNESS: The anti-dumping clause is still in effect, but the fixed valuations have all been removed, I believe.

THE COMMISSIONER: How do you qualify it?

THE WITNESS: The right of the Department of Customs to apply fixed valuations has been removed.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You mean against British goods? A. Against British goods, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. It comes purely as a matter of what the Act says, and that is selling here below cost because -- the fixed valuation was an arbitrary valuation that has nothing whatever to do with cost and was away over the cost of production? A. Quite right.

Q. Let me understand it. Insofar as British goods being brought here are concerned, and sold here at less than the British cost of production, the anti-dumping provisions do still apply, don't they? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: The Anti-dumping clauses, according to the witness, do still apply as against British goods?

MR. McRUER: The section, my lord, is Section 6, of the Customs Tariff Act, and it reads as follows:

"In the case of articles exported to Canada of a class or kind made or produced in Canada, if the export or actual selling price to an importer in Canada is less than the fair market value of the same article when sold for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course in the country whence exported to Canada at the time of its exportation to Canada, or is less than the fair market value or value for duty thereof as determined under the provisions of section thirty-six of the Customs Act, or is less than the fair market value thereof as fixed by the Governor in Council under the provisions of section thirty-seven of the Customs Act, or is less than the value for duty thereof as determined by the Minister under the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (e) of section forty-one of the Customs Act, or is less than the fair market value thereof as fixed by the Minister under the provisions of section forty-three of the Customs Act, there shall, in addition to the duties otherwise established, be levied, collected and paid on such article, on its importation into Canada, a special or dumping duty, equal to the difference between the said selling price of the article for export and the said

fair market value thereof or value for duty thereof; and such special or dumping duty shall be levied, collected and paid on such article although it is not otherwise dutiable."

THE COMMISSIONER: Well now, that is the anti-dumping clause in general.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are there parts of it that do not apply to British goods now?

MR. McRUER: The witness says they took off the fixed valuation.

THE COMMISSIONER What you have just read says that the Minister shall fix the fair market value.

MR. McRUER: That applies to British goods as well as foreign goods.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is correct, is n't it, Mr. Whitehead?

MR. McRUER: I have prepared a little volume of all the laws applicable which I will file, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, you do not expect a duty on British goods higher than the present duties plus the dumping duty that is provided for in that section? A. I take anything I can get.

Q. Oh, I see.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Whitehead told us that his complaint, if he has any is in connection with

dumping, and that the dumping provisions which you have just read are not applied strictly enough, at least against British goods.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is what you said, Mr. Whitehead? A. Yes.

Q. How do you know, what prompted you to say that? A. We have applied for enforcement of the Dumping Act a number of times.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. When?

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. When - to whom? A. To the Department.

Q. The Department of Customs? A. Yes, the Department of Customs, and they have promised to investigate these complaints of ours. We have practically proven the case to our satisfaction but we have never been able to get the department to take any action in the case.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Have you any correspondence on those matters? A. There is no actual correspondence on those matters. It was done verbally by myself with the Department.

Q. With whom? A. With Mr. Williams.

Q. Mr. Williams of the Department? A. Yes.

Q. When was that done? A. The last interview that was had with him on that subject was last fall.

Q. Did you submit any documentary proof to Mr. Williams? A. The Company itself submitted

proof through our representative in Ottawa.

Q. Who is that? A. Mr. MacRae, documentary evidence in which the Company proved a case of dumping or attempted to prove a case of dumping against itself.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Against itself? A. Against itself, yes.

Q. What company? A. The Wabasso Company.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Is this something, - you bought something over there and brought it over here and dumped it? A. Yes.

Q. And then you tried to get the Department to make a ruling as to dumping, on British goods, on something that the Wabasso Company had put over? A. Yes.

Q. Well, did you tell the Department that the Wabasso Company were the exporters? A. The invoices and all documents were made out to the Wabasso Company and the Department knew it.

Q. Yes? A. They were told about it.

Q. Let me understand. You had purchased abroad? A. Yes, sir.

Q. From some other person? A. From the English Exporter.

Q. From the English Exporter? A. Yes.

Q. At a price that you thought would show below the fost of production abroad? A. The price, we knew, was below the cost of production.

Q. You knew the cost of production abroad?
A. Yes.

Q. You had purchased abroad and brought in the goods? A. Yes, sir.

Q. And then you applied to the Department, that on the strength of that evidence they ought to apply a dumping duty against Great Britain?
A. Against our import.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You mean against that particular import? A. Yes, against that particular import.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Just on that one? A. On that one.

Q. And did you expect to establish some sort of precedent by that, that that was a ruling that these goods were below the cost of production abroad, and you having been the purchaser? A. We expected to establish the attitude of the Department towards dumping.

Q. Yes, but how did you expect the Department to take seriously an importation by a large company such as the Wabasso Company of goods that they purchased abroad and rule that they were below the cost of production abroad, and set up a precedent that that is the cost of production abroad on the strength of your import; at the price you paid for it would you expect the Department to take that seriously? A. I do not see why not.

Q. I see, all right. Well, just what other application?

THE COMMISSIONER: Pardon me, Mr. McRuer.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What did the Department do, or what attitude did the Department take?
A. The department ruled that it was investigated.

Q. That it was being investigated? A. Yes, that it was being investigated.

Q. And is that the last you heard of it?
A. That is the last I heard of it.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. What other applications have you made to have the dumping duty applied?
A. I forget the exact date, but we applied against the importation of a million yards of cloth which was being brought in to replace one of our own cloths, at a price considerably less than our selling price, or the price we had sold it for or the price we were quoting. The cloth was bought by News Hesselin Company of Manchester.

Q. Bought by them in England? A. No, it was sold to the merchants in Montreal.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Sold by them?
A. Yes, sold by them to the Merchants in Montreal.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Yes, all right?
A. The Managing Director of the News Hesselin Company visited;Mr. Reiss was in this country later on. When the goods started to come through the Department, to go through the Port of Entry, we applied again

through Mr. MacRae of Ottawa to have it investigated, and have the entry investigated and questioned later on.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. "Questioned". That is to say, to ascertain whether the selling price was lower than the market price in England, on the cost of production? A. Yes. Later on, I had a visit from Mr. Reiss, and during the interview he inadvertently mentioned that he had taken this order at the actual cost to him of wages and cotton. His further statements during that same interview were, that they would always take business as long as there was a fraction of a farthing in it for them over the actual cash outlay required to produce that cloth.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Yes. Was that the evidence that you submitted to the Customs Department?
A. ~~Xxx~~ No, that was after we had applied.

Q. After you had made your application?
A. After we had applied.

Q. I see, then, you did not put it before the Customs Department? A. I did not put that before the Customs Department, no.

Q. Well, why did you not put that before them?
A. I cannot put verbal evidence like that before the Customs Department. I have got to be specific.

Q. They would not rely on it? A. It has got to be specific.

Q. They have got to have some more proof than your statement? A. You have to produce invoices of the entry before they will really take serious action, although they will say they will investigate.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. When did this take place? A. It was either the Autumn before last, or early in the Spring of this last year. Exact date I don't remember off-hand.

Q. The Autumn of 1934? A. Yes, the Autumn of 1934, or the Spring of 1935.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well now, is your complaint that the Customs Department have not acted on these two complaints that you have made? A. I don't know, Mr. McRuer. We did not get any report.

Q. Well, I want to get what it is that you are complaining about? It is the dumping of British goods on the Canadian market? A. Yes.

Q. And now you have told us about two instances, one in which you were the importer yourselves, and the other instance the last one you have mentioned, the Reiss incident, and are those all that you have got? A. All that I wish to state here with any degree of accuracy.

Q. Yes, and the Reiss incident, you did not go and tell the Customs Department the information you had? A. Not in the application.

Q. Or at any time? A. I might correct that statement, Mr. McRuer, inas much as Mr. McRuer was

told about this and asked to ~~Mx~~ speak to Mr. Williams.

Q. I see, but you did not put yourself on record?
A. No.

Q. You did not send any written document to them, or anything else? A. No.

Q. And that is the sum and total of your complaints in regard to dumping? A. Not that I would wish to speak accurately at this hearing.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What are Mr. Williams' initials? A. He is the Supervisor, isn't he?

MR. McRUER: He is with the Customs Department, Textile Division, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well now, we have wandered a little abroad from the wages question, Mr. Whitehead, and I want to carry on with that. I asked you to prepare certain statements, going back as far as you are able to give the information in regard to your wages, and dividing them under different sub-divisions, male and female, those receiving 12½ cents, those under 17, under 21, and over 21, under those headings. Now, those are rates per hour. Why were you not able to get me this information prior to 1933? I thought you had your records back to 1931?
A. The records are not past 1933.

Q. Not past 1933? A. No.

Q. Well, we will have the pay rolls so that we can digest them later on ourselves. Now, dealing

with the year 1933, the summary, male, is this: "Under 12½ cents"- I presume that is 12½ or under? A. No, it is under 12½.

Q. Oh, under 12½? A. That was the question asked.

Q. All right. Then probably I have got to have it sub-divided a little further. There were 100 employees, male, in 1933, --this is for the last two weeks of February, 1933 -- receiving under 12½ cents per hour; there were 180 receiving under 17 cents per hour; there were 142 receiving under 21 cents per hour, and 520 over 21 cents. Those are all male employees.

Of the female employees, there were 17 under 12½ cents per hour; there were 115 under 17 cents per hour; there were 215 under 21 cents per hour; and 241 over 21 cents per hour. Now, I do not want any confusion, Mr. Whitehead, on this: We have the total under 21 cents per hour by adding those three columns together, and then over 21 cents per hour, and if we add the two together we get the total, so that I am just wondering where the 21 cents per hour ones come in? A. They are actually in with that 21. You did not ask that, but the office put that in.

THE COMMISSIONER: 21 and over?

MR. McRUER: 21 and over, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, the summary of this

as I make it, male, for this year, 1933, after taking the male and female together, therewere 117 getting under 12½ cents an hour; 295 getting under 17 cents an hour, or 412 of the employees were getting under 17 cents an hour.

MR. LANCTOT: Under 17 cents?

MR. McRUER: Under 17 cents, 412 of the employees.

MR. LANCTOT: You have got two numbers on the 17th, 295 on the 17 and 412 on the 17.

MR. McRUER: No. If they are getting under 12½ they are still getting under 17. There are 412 of the employees who were getting under 17 cents an hour.

MR. LANCTOT: Well, what is the 295?

MR. McRUER: Between 12½ and 17.

MR. LANCTOT: Oh, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Or altogether, 769 of the employees getting under 21 cents an hour out of a total of 1530 employees or, in other words, over 50 per cent. of the employees were getting under 21 cents an hour. That is in 1933.

THE COMMISSIONER: That would be Exhibit 78.

EXHIBIT 78: Pay-roll anaylsis of employees by rates.

THE COMMISSIONER: How do you describe it, Mr. Mr. McRuer?

MR. LAJOIE: Just a moment, please. What is 77? I never heard of No. 77 being filed.

Will you please inform me where all those statistics were taken from?

MR. McRUER: From your returns furnished by the Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa. I wrote up and asked them to furnish them to me. They were taken from your returns.

MR. LAJOIE: But those are your figures.

MR. McRUER: I had Mr. Whiteley figure them up.

MR. LAJOIE: And all the other figures, you tell me they are taken from the Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa?

MR. McRUER: I got the returns that you were kind enough to say we might have access to. I wrote to Ottawa and asked them to compile them from the returns.

MR. LAJOIE: And that is the compilation?

MR. McRUER: Yes, that is the compilation.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 78 is what?

MR. McRUER: Pay-roll analysis for the last two weeks of February, 1933. And the next, my lord, will be the pay-roll analysis for the same period in 1934.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 79.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

EXHIBIT 79: Payroll analysis for last two weeks of February, 1934.

MR. McRUER: Exhibit 79 show all the male employees; there were 121 receiving under 12½ cents

an hour; there were 200 receiving under 17, and 155 under 21; and over 21, that is, 21 or over, 722.

Of the female employees there were 22 under 12½ cents an hour; 81 under 17 cents per hour; 222 under 21 cents an hour, and 327 over 21 cents an hour.

I have summarized this as follows, my lord, that of the male employees there were 321 getting under 17 cents an hour; there were 103 of the female employees getting under 17 cents an hour; or a total of 424 out of 1850 employees; there was a total of 760 getting under 17 cents an hour.

THE COMMISSIONER: About these hours, Mr. McRuer, are the returns made on the actual hours worked, including over-time, and so on, or are they just made according to the legal hours required by law ?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Can you answer that question, Mr. Whitehead? A. Well, I would like a little further questioning on that. When you say "overtime" do you mean authorized over-time, or the individual's voluntary overtime?

Q. I mean both; the voluntary work to begin with? A. The voluntary over-time which the employee works during the lunch-hour usually is not recorded. Any authorized time is recorded. That came up, oh, it must have been last year with the inspector at Quebec. There was a complaint made about girls working

during the noonhour, and the Inspector came from Quebec to investigate that and went through the mill himself, and he found a number working during the lunch-hour, and he asked if they were doing it voluntarily for us, and afterwards he came to me and told me about this condition which I knew of, and I asked him then what I was to do, whether I was to actually stop the machinery from operating and prevent the employees from working?

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. And what did he say?
A. Well, he said it was pretty hard to stop them if they wanted to do it.

Q. But those hours go in? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, these rates that I have here are taken from your payroll? A. Yes, taken from the pay-roll.

Q. This is an analysis of the pay-roll?
A. An actual analysis from the pay-roll.

Q. So that this will actually state the rates accurately on which these people are paid?

THE COMMISSIONER: You see the point, Mr. McRuer? Take for instance any one of these sheets, a woman did not take her lunch-hour; that would be returned as seven hours.

THE WITNESS: Well, this point, my lord, can be cleared up to this extent: That in 1935, which Mr. McRuer is presenting to-day, the minimum wage law in the Province of Quebec was changed so that we were

required to pay an hourly wage, a minimum hourly wage. In 1935 the actual minimum hourly wage is entered on the pay-roll opposite each employee's name, and the additional over the hourly wage which was shown by piecework is paid as a bonus over the minimum.

THE COMMISSIONER: I see.

THE WITNESS: So that the minimums which that refers to there are taken off the pay-roll.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, we will come to that. I want to correct something in regard to Exhibit 79, my lord. My friend tells me that I said 760 were under 17. I intended to say under 21 cents per hour. I thought I had said that. That is, of the 1850, 760 were paid under 21 cents per hour. Now, the next ~~ehx~~ exhibit will be 80, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is that, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: This is a statement for the same period for 1935.

EXHIBIT 80: Pay-roll analysis for last two weeks of February, 1935.

MR. McRUER: It is summarized in the same way. Of the total, 649 were paid under 21 cents per hour out of a total of 1858.

MR. LAJOIE: Male and female.

MR. McRUER: That is male and female. Then we come to a statement showing an analysis of the pay-roll for the last two weeks in January, 1936.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is January?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: And the others were February.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. I cannot take the same periods because there was a strike on.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 81.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

EXHIBIT 81: Payroll analysis for last two weeks of January, 1936.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, there appears to be none under 12½ cents an hour in this pay-roll? You agree with that? A. Certainly.

Q. When was that change made? A. August, - no.

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, the 1st of August, 1935.

THE WITNESS: Oh yes, the 1st of August, 1935, the new schedule of rates for the minimum wage came into effect which made the 12½ cent rate the lowest rate payable.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. The lowest rate payable was 12½ cents? A. Yes.

Q. So that prior to a minimum wage law coming into effect in the Province of Quebec you had no---

MR. LAJOIE: There was a minimum wage law before that. The rate was changed.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Prior to the rate being raised in the Province of Quebec last summer, you had 134 employees who were receiving less than the lowest

minimum? A. No, the minimum.

Q. I mean the lowest minimum now in effect; 12½ cents is the lowest minimum? A. The minimum at that time was 9 cents.

Q. The minimum was 9 cents at that time? A. Yes. Actually the weekly earnings of the employees were not changed. It was a change from the 55-hour basis to the 48-hour basis, which brought the rest from 9 to 12½ cents.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. The number of hours were decreased? A. Yes. They kept the basic earnings as $10.00 but they made the rate 48 instead of 55.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well now,what class of work would those men do who were getting under 12½ cents an hour? A. Doffers and battery-hands.

THE COMMISSIONER: When you say "men"--

BY MR. McRUER: Q. There were 115 men in 1935 that got under 12½ cents an hour ? A. Boys. They were not men but boys 14 to 16 years old.

Q. 14 to 16 years old? A. Yes.

Q. Are you still employing boys under 16? A. Yes. I might correct that last statement. Doffers and battery-hands are supposed to be boys between 14 and 16 years of age, but during the last few years we have allowed men, married men and grown men who have applied to the Company for positions to occupy these positions where it was necessary

that they should be able to earn something rather than doing nothing on the street.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. They were doing boys' jobs? A. Yes.

Q. And getting a boy's pay? A. Yes, getting a boy's pay.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. So that we get it, that in this country married men are working for 12½ cents an hour, or less, during 1925? A. 1925?

Q. 1935? A. We could quite easily prevent that statement being made, Mr. McRuer, but we thought it was for the benefit of the community if we allowed this to happen.

Q. It may be an unfortunate reflection on this community that it has happened? A. It certainly is, Mr. McRuer. I agree with you.

MR. LAJOIE: There are 1500 families in town under direct relief, Mr. McRuer, and there would be 2,000 otherwise.

MR. McRUER: Well, I will not reply to that.

MR. LAJOIE: It is a free country.

MR. McRUER: I have to restrain myself.

MR. LAJOIE: It is dangerous sometimes; it explodes after a little time.

MR. McRUER: Well, we may before we are through.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I have asked you to produce some of the pay-rolls of the Company.

This document we have here is the pay-roll for the last two weeks of January, 1936? A. It is the pay-roll comprising that period.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you putting that in as an exhibit?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then that will be Exhibit 82.

EXHIBIT 82: Payroll for the last two weeks of January, 1936.

MR. McRUER: My lord, Mr. Whitehead explains that this document is subject to an audit, being part of the current year's business, so I agreed that we will let him have it for the purpose of making a copy of it.

THE WITNESS: We will submit to you the copy.

MR. McRUER: That is all right, you want the original? That is the pay-roll for the last two weeks of January, 1936, my lord.

(Page 1120 follows)

Q. Would you take this pay roll and turn up for me, please, the classification of weavers on fine goods? A. I cannot turn that up on this pay roll, Mr. McRuer. There is no such classification as weavers of fine goods.

Q. Cannot you turn up weavers of fine goods? A. No, sir, not unless I know the actual loom numbers on which the fine goods are being woven.

Q. Cannot I get any information now? Cannot you get me there what is actually being paid to weavers? A. Not unless you turn up the looms on which these actual fine goods are being woven.

Q. How could your company be in a position to make a statement as to what the average earnings were of weavers of fine goods if your pay roll won't show it?

THE COMMISSIONER: Is there such a statement?

MR. McRUER: I had one made at one time, my lord.

THE WITNESS: The pay roll has been changed considerably since the time that statement was made.

Q. I want to get down to compare your pay with what was said to the Tariff Board in 1927 when you were asking for an increase in tariff. What was being put forward as to the wages you paid at that time. I want to compare them with to-day? A. You cannot compare those two statements to-day.

Q. Well, let us get at something. Turn up weavers, then. Have you got the weavers? A. Yes.

Q. You have got a page showing weavers?

A. Yes.

Q. Well now, what would you say was the rate for weavers in your mill? A. That question is a little bit too ambiguous to answer directly.

Q. Too ambiguous? A. Well, you have rates for men and rates for girls.

Q. Well, give us both? A. Girls, the basic rate for girls is calculated at 28¢ an hour. For the men at night on the narrow looms 30¢ an hour and on the wide looms 33¢ an hour.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You mean they are all paid by the hour? A. No, that is the basic rate.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Have you got anything that will show me your basic rate as compared with your actual earnings? A. The statement is available to be handed to you.

MR. LAJOIE: This morning --

THE WITNESS: I brought it this morning.

MR. LAJOIE: They are here for your use, Mr. McRuer. Where are they?

THE WITNESS: In this envelope here.

MR. LAJOIE: Mr. McRuer, could I hand to Mr. Whitehead the same volume as you have so he can follow it?

MR. McRUER: I don't think you need put that before Mr. Whitehead just yet.

MR. LAJOIE: I will wait till you put the question.

MR. McRUER: You wait till I get it out.

Q. Now, you are producing for me a statement -- I will have to get the years right -- is all weaving done

on piece work? A. Yes, Mr. McRuer, all of it.

Q. All of it is done on piece work; then, you have produced a statement of average piece work earnings.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is going in, is it?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be 83.

EXHIBIT NO. 83: Statement of average piece work earnings.

THE COMMISSIONER: For any period?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. What period is this?
A. That is the period down the side.

Q. Commencing the 28th of February, 1931 with fortnights each year until --

THE COMMISSIONER: The 28th of February; I see, the last two weeks of Febrmmry, 1931 and so on, down.

MR. McRUER: Yes, down to 1935.

Q. Now, the actual earnings on the Draper automatic plain narrow looms for a day are 34.77¢ and night 36.92¢ in 1931. In 1932 they were 32.65¢ and at night 35.9¢. The 27th of February they were 31.37¢ and 34.16¢ respectively. Then, on the 18th of February, 1933 they were 28.63¢ in day time and 29.02¢ at night. The 25th of February of that year they were 25.80 and 26.72. On the 3rd of March, 1934 they were 28.78¢ in the day time and 28.50¢ at night. Then, I am skipping two or three of them. They are about the same. Then, on the 16th of February, 1935, they were 26.49 and 27.33. Now, have we not got the same thing for this year? A. Isn't that --

Q. 1936, January, the pay roll we have just put in? A. No, I don't think -- I don't know that at all. I didn't check these before they were brought down. They were only handed to me this morning.

Q. I would like to get the same thing. A. You had the pay roll here, you see.

Q. Yes. Then, we come to the average piece work earnings of weavers on the sheeting looms, automatic.

THE COMMISSIONER: This is another document, is it?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: 84.

EXHIBIT NO. 84: Average piece work earnings of weavers on sheeting looms, automatic.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is for the same period, that is, two weeks in February each year?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. This is the average actual earnings --

THE COMMISSIONER: For what people?

MR. McRUER: For weavers my lord; on sheeting looms, sheeting automatic looms it was 38.53¢ in February, 1931 for day rates and 36.47¢ in February, 1935. And in 1931, 1932 the night basic rate was 5% over day rate.

Now, the average -- this will be another exhibit, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: 85.

EXHIBIT NO. 85: Average piece work earnings of weavers on Lancashire looms.

MR. McRUER: The average piece work earnings of weavers on Lancashire looms.

THE COMMISSIONER: On Lancashire, oh yes; average piece work earnings of weavers on Lancashire looms.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: For the same period?

MR. McRUER: For the same period, 1931 to 1935. This runs from 23.80¢ an hour in 1931 to 23.66¢ in 1935. It went as low as 21.06¢ in the meantime.

Q. These are all calculated on a 55 hour day? A. Certain ones were calculated on the 55 hour day but all -- they are all 55 hour day.

Q. All 55 hour day? A. February -- we didn't change to the 48 till March.

Q. How were the hours of labour kept track of there, with a time clock? A. No, it is all time book.

Q. Who keeps the time book? A. The overseer in the department.

Q. The overseer in the department? A. Yes, but the company for a considerable period -- especially since I went there -- for a considerable period on since last August when the new minimum wage scale was put into force has realized the necessity of a time clock to keep an accurate check on these actual hours worked and authority was obtained this winter to instal a system of time clocks for which plans have now been prepared and the con-

struction and installation will take place as soon as the frost gets out and we can start building.

Q. Had you reason to believe that the hours were not accurately kept on the system that has prevailed? A. Well, that is a rather difficult one to answer. As far as the employee was concerned we were pretty certain that he was getting the benefit of the doubt.

Q. Well, I am dealing with the piece workers; of course, the time doesn't make any difference -- A. No.

Q. -- as to what he actually gets but as to what his earnings per hour would be it is important? A. The time is, I should say, accurately kept as long as the employee doesn't skip out the back door on us. The mill doors are shut at starting time and are not opened till stopping time. Anybody leaving or coming in between those hours must have an authority in the form of a pass signed by the overseer which pass is stamped by the electric recording clock at each of the main entrances to the mill, which are checked in turn with the pay rolls.

Q. Now, you have produced another statement on mules and ring spinners. This will be exhibit number 86.

EXHIBIT NO. 86: Earnings of mules and ring spinners, average rate per hour.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is it for the same period again?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: What do you call the employees?

MR. McRUER: Mules,--

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it about?

MR. McRUER: It is the average rate per hour for mules and ring spinners.

THE COMMISSIONER: Spinners?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord, from 1931 to 1935. In 1931 it was as high as 43.04¢or day and in 1935 34.82 for mule spinners. For ring spinners on the warp it was 28.98 in 1931 and 21.57 in 1935. On the weft it was 27.19 and 21.39 in 1935. The night rates are all slightly higher than the day rates; sometimes two cents and sometimes three cents.

Now, the brief that was submitted to the Tariff Board in 1927, I see a statement made there that mule spinners, male, on fine counts earned an average of 48.64¢ an hour? A. Yes.

Q. Apparently the average to-day is 34.82¢ an hour? A. Yes.

Q. Would you think that correctly shows the lowering of the rate between then and now? A. Yes, at the time. I am not absolutely positive. I was not there to prove the fact but at that time when spinners, mule spinners were operating on these fine counts of yarn my understanding was they were getting 49¢ an hour for operating on them.

Q. That statement shows mule spinners on the coarse goods got an average of 39.02¢ an hour?

A. Yes.

Q. And to-day they are 34.82¢ an hour?

A. They were getting 39.2 and 34.2 now, yes, sir.

Q. When did you abandon the fine counts or are you still making them? A. For sale on which this brief was written we no longer are producing any fine counts at all.

Q. Are you producing as much fine count yarn now as you were then? A. No.

Q. You are not producing for your own use I am talking; I mean actually produced? A. The only yarn we are producing on mules to-day in the way of fine counts above thirties are being produced because we have had to start, during the winter months, some of the old Lancashire looms which were lying idle and we had to spin the filling for these looms on the mules.

Q. Are you spinning fine yarn in any other way than on mules? A. We are spinning warp yarns up to forties on rings.

Q. Just up to forties? A. Yes, we do a little fifties and sixties, but not very much.

Q. I wanted to find out in some way if I could to make a comparison of the rates of wages paid in 1927 with the rates of wages paid to-day?

A. Actually that comparative rate is there, 49¢ against whatever you have --

Q. 34¢. A. That is the actual comparison of rates but that 49¢ rate was for fine counts up

to one hundred and twenties which are not being produced to-day. No doubt if they were being produced to-day the rate would be the same.

Q. Well, the coarse counts, you are not paying the same rate as you were in 1927? A. Not as big a drop, Mr. McRuer, only a drop of two cents, is it? 39¢ to 34¢, 5¢.

Q. 5¢ an hour is quite a drop? A. It is quite a drop but on the other hand for that particular type of work it had to drop because we could not simply sell at the full rate.

Q. Now, weavers; this statement shows weavers on coarse class of goods earned an average of 29¢ an hour? A. Are you at the same page?

Q. Yes. A. Weavers of fine class of goods earned 35¢ an hour.

Q. Weavers of coarse class of goods, 29¢ an hour? A. You are not able to separate the rates paid to weavers on fine goods and the rates paid to weavers on coarse goods because now -- because on the automatic loom the basis -- the basic rate is per thousand picks, per thousand picks. The rate is determined by the number of looms which the weaver attends. The finer the cloth or more difficult the cloth the less number of looms she gets but the higher price per thousand picks is paid. That is the only difference to-day. There is no such thing as a rate for fine weaving and coarse weaving. It depends entirely on the number of looms which the

weaver can attend to on any specific style of cloth.

Q. Now, I asked you to give me the basic rate on piece work by occupations. Is this the statement?
A. Yes, sir.

MR. LANCTOT: 87.

MR. McRUER: This will be exhibit number --

SECRETARY WHITELEY: 87.

EXHIBIT NO. 87: Basic rate on piece work wages by occupations

THE COMMISSIONER: What do you call it?

MR. McRUER: It is wages by occupations, basic rates piece work.

THE COMMISSIONER: Just a minute, is it for any particular date?

MR. McRUER: It is for the year 1932. Have we not got a similar one for the subsequent years?

MR. LAJOIE: Which years?

THE WITNESS: You have it there.

MR. McRUER: Oh yes, it is set up a little differently.

THE COMMISSIONER: The whole year 1932?

MR. McRUER: Prevailing at that time, my lord. I have also exhibit number 88 which will be for the year 1935.

EXHIBIT NO. 88: Basic rates on piece work wages by occupation 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: 1935?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. These are their basic rates.

Q. There is not much change?

A. Not very much, is there?

Q. Not much, in some cases they are a little higher and in some cases a little lower. Now, I cannot quite understand your statements when I examine the pay roll. They are a little complicated.
I find a mule spinner in the pay roll here appears to -- $28.05 is the total amount he gets?

A. In the fortnight.

Q. For 88 hours? A. He is short a day.

Q. The total number of hours he worked is 88?

A. Yes, 88.

Q. Yes. A. That is 40 something cents, isn't it? 32¢, isn't it?

Q. About 32¢. A. 35¢, isn't it?

Q. Now, when I come to the ring spinners I get a whole row of them here and they seem to get ~~in~~ 12½¢ an hour? A. They are not spinners.

Q. Oh, I see, they are doffers, yes, yes.

A. These are your spinners here (indicating).

Q. Now, we have spinners that seem to run from 23¢ to 24¢? A. 24¢ -- 24½¢ is six side spinners and 23¼¢ is four side spinners.

Q. I see. Now, you have some other earlier pay rolls here. I want to file the pay roll for the last two weeks of February, 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: 89.

EXHIBIT NO. 89: Pay roll for last two weeks of February, 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: For the last two weeks of February, 1935?

MR. McRUER: 1935, my lord. And the last fortnight of February, 1934.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be separate?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

SECRETARY WHITELEY: 90.

EXHIBIT NO. 90: Pay roll for last fortnight of February, 1934.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are going to mark them?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be 90.

MR. McRUER: And the last fortnight of February, 1933.

THE COMMISSIONER: 91.

EXHIBIT NO. 91: Pay roll for last fortnight of February, 1933.

MR. McRUER: And the last fortnight of February, 1932.

THE COMMISSIONER: 92.

EXHIBIT NO. 92: Pay roll for last fortnight of February, 1932.

MR. McRUER: And the last fortnight of February, 1931.

THE COMMISSIONER: 93.

EXHIBIT NO. 93: Pay roll for last fortnight of February, 1931.

MR. McRUER: I asked you to produce a statement showing the actual deliveries in February and July of each of the years from 1926 to 1936 --

THE COMMISSIONER: What deliveries?

MR. McRUER: Deliveries of -- their sales of yarn and cloth, my lord, and divided into yarn, cloth, prints, sheets and slips and summarized.

THE COMMISSIONER: For what years?

MR. McRUER: From 1926 to 1936, my lord. This will be exhibit --

SECRETARY WHITELEY: 94.

EXHIBIT NO. 94: Statement of deliveries of yarn, cloth, prints sheets and slips.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. And you have prepared an analysis of sales by commodity groups exclusively of sheets, slips and yarn. Is this correct --

THE COMMISSIONER: Does that cover the same period?

MR. McRUER: For the year, yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: 1926 to 1936?

MR. McRUER: 1931 to 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: The last one was 1926 to 1936.

MR. McRUER: Yes. This is for the years 1931 to 1935..

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it? How do you describe it?

MR. McRUER: It is an analysis of sales by commodity groups.

THE COMMISSIONER: Commodity groups?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord, dealing with cotton, silk and so on, but exclusive of sheets and yarns which are in the next exhibit.

MR. LAIDLAW: And slips.

EXHIBIT NO. 95: Analysis of sales by commodity groups.

MR. McRUER: And slips; the next one, my lord, is an analysis of sales of sheets, slips and yarn.

THE COMMISSIONER: For the same period?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is 96.

EXHIBIT #96: Analysis of sales by commodity groups, sheets, slips and yarn

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, your troubles here apparently seemed to start from the shut down last August. You closed the mill last August, didn't you? A. You say the troubles seemed to have started since that date?

THE COMMISSIONER: You mean trouble with the employees?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

THE WITNESS: I would not set that date myself.

Q. You would not set that date; you thought that it had been going on longer than that? A. I knew it.

Q. You did close the mill last August? A. The mill was closed for us.

Q. Closed for you --

BY THE COMMISSIONER: There was a strike, was there not? A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was not a lockout? A. A strike.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Did you make a statement as reported in the press to this effect? The press report reads as follows --

MR. LAJOIE: The date, please?

THE WITNESS: Mr. McRuer, I would like to correct that statement now that you are going further. What date is that press report you are reading?

MR. McRUER: This is from the 24th of March of this year.

THE COMMISSIONER: This week?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

Q. But this quotes you as having said something at another time. A. That is just what I was going to say. You said I closed the mill last year and I said I did not close the mill. I know what you are referring to now. You are referring to a statement that was made when we took a night gang off. We took one gang off completely last year in the first part of August.

Q. Before the strike? A. Yes.

Q. You had taken -- laid off some of the employees? A. We laid off one shift.

Q. One shift of employees in August last year?
A. Yes.

Q. And you are reported in the press in this way and I want to get your comment on it.

"The difficulties began at Wabasso last August when the mills were closed down".

You say that is inaccurate, you did not close the mills? A. Did I make that statement or is that the newspaper?

Q. This is the newspaper account.
A. Quoting my actual words?

Q. No, it is going to quote them in a minute. "The difficulties began at Wabasso last August when the mills were closed down by the manager, and the reason given by W. J. Whitehead, the general manager, on that occasion was that"-- now, this is in quotation marks --

"'The approach of the federal elections always causes a certain perturbation in the industrial world, particularly with all cotton which has special need of tariff protections. Cotton buyers', he added, 'are at present in a state of uncertainty as to the tariff policy of the next government and refuse to place orders in advance.'"

Are you correctly quoted there? A. Absolutely.

Q. You are correctly quoted? A. Yes.

Q. That was the reason you laid off the shift?
A. That was actually the reason why the shift was laid off.

Q. When did you take on the night shift again?
A. The night shift was not taken on again until considerably -- until after the strike was all over.

Q. Well, when? A. It was sometime -- September, I think, the first of September, some time.

MR. LAJOIE: The finish of the strike.

THE WITNESS: September 1st. We didn't start up again until after Labour Day, I think it was.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. After Labour Day?
A. Yes.

Q. You started up with the three shifts after

Labour Day? A. Yes.

Q. And had the cotton buyers settled down in regard to the uncertainty of the general elections by Labour Day? A. No.

Q. Well, if you laid them off on account of the uncertainty of the market in regard to the tariff matters how did you find that that had been settled by Labour Day? A. Well, I will tell you, Mr. McRuer. You have got me all wrong -- you have got kind of a wrong angle on that end of it.

Q. I want to be straightened out if I am wrong.

MR. LAJOIE: He will.

THE WITNESS: Actually when the strike occurred, the settlement of the strike was that we should -- at least, the Mayor came to me at the office and we discussed this thing as you heard reported in the previous evidence by the witnesses, and I agreed to start up again as the employees were under the impression that the actual dismissal of that staff was premeditated. In order to iron the thing out and get back to work without trouble we started three shifts up again although actually we had no more justification for starting in September than we had when we laid off on the first of August.

Q. Well -- A. The company actually took a chance of running to inventory after that period until the market opened up again.

Q. You found the market had been pretty well closed when you closed? A. Oh yes, you could not get a buyer to place anything, except his immediate needs.

Q. This list of the deliveries for July, 1935 shows -- A. Yes, but --

Q. July, 1935; I want to get exactly what you were doing first. You can give any explanation you want, then. A. Would you like me to explain before you take these deliveries the period --

Q. No, I would like to just give them to you first. In July, 1935 your actual deliveries had been $390,000, the total, and in July of the previous year they had been $214,000 and in July of the previous year they had been $330,000. You see, you are over $100,000 up in July, 1935 over what you were in 1934. Even if we go back to July, 1932, your actual deliveries were only $192,000, as against $390,000 when you laid off the shift. Now, how does that justify the statement you gave to the press about the uncertainty of the market due to the pending general election and the tariff policy? A. Well, I say -- I will try to explain it to you to the best of my ability to do so. The textile industry, or the bookings of the textile industry take place in volume once a year, which is the period from about the first of July, roughly, up to February or early March. The bookings in July, from July to December, are usually for spring delivery in

January, February, March and April. The bookings during the months of February and March are for delivery during June, July and August. You have two definite selling periods in this textile market of spring and fall. The spring deliveries are for summer wash goods and the fall deliveries are for the Christmas trade. The fact that we had heavy deliveries in July has nothing whatsoever to do with the actual production of the mill as that merchandise was -- I won't say was -- but would likely have been produced during the months of March, April and May. Actually during the months of May and June there is practically no buying at all takes place. It is what we call the season for repeat business.

Q. Do you get any buying to speak of in the month of July? A. Mail order buying.

Q. You don't get, don't expect any large volume of buying in the month of July? A. Mail order buying.

Q. Well, I say large volume? A. Well, that is pretty large.

Q. Were you getting your mail order buying in the month of July last year? A. No, all held up; the mail order was not actually placed, I don't think, until October.

Q. The mail order buying -- A. Was not placed until October, offhand.

Q. Well, what is your experience --

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Pardon me, this mail order buying, what class of buyers is that? A. Eatons, Simpsons, Hudson's Bay, all those fellows.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. What was your experience since July? Has your inventory increased by months above what it previously was? A. What is that?

Q. Has your inventory increase above what it previously was? A. No.

Q. And in years before? A. That goes back also --

THE COMMISSIONER: By inventory you mean stock on hand?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

THE WITNESS: That also goes back, Mr. McRuer, to whether you mean under the actual operating of the plant, with sales. Before I took over charge of the company we had a busy period and a slack period. It was the custom of the company during the summer months, starting in May, the end of May, the middle of May, sometimes, to run on a very reduced schedule right through until October, or September. I am only speaking from memory. And during the winter months to have to run double shifts and overtime in order to get out the volume -- in order to get out the production to take care of the buying which occurred during that short period in the winter. After taking over the plant and discussing it with the directors, with the president and the

directors we decided to try to even out the peak, to try and get a steadier production over the twelve months of the year and run to what we call grey inventory. That is the policy which the company has been carrying out during the last few years since 1932. We run steadily twelve months of the year, 24 hours a day. And we stock the excess production over sales in grey stock which is used to take care of the deliveries during the rush period of the winter months.

Q. Well, I know; that is a rather long answer to my question. I only asked you the question had your inventory increased during the months of September, October and November over what it had been those previous months -- that is, months of previous years? A. Considerably. We were unable to stock any more grey cloth on the floor space available.

Q. Has that decreased since? A. It is empty, now.

Q. It is empty now? A. Yes.

Q. So that as far as your trade has gone since August, 1935, when you have put on your shift, you have disposed of the result of the shift's labours? A. Fortunately, yes.

Q. Alright; now, you laid off that shift and gave a statement to the papers that you are doing so by reason of the approaching general election and the uncertainty in regard to tariff matters, and as a

matter of fact you are entirely wrong in your laying off the shift because if the shift had stayed off you would not have had this inventory to dispose of?

A. Pardon?

Q. You would not have had the goods to dispose of if the shift had remained off. You laid them off, no orders, election on, we have no use for your labours yet when they go on strike and you put them back at the settlement of the strike they go to work and you have disposed of the results of their labours?

A. I should hope I had.

Q. Empty now, warehouse empty?

A. You cannot foresee in the fall what conditions are going to be in the spring.

Q. I thought that was one of the parts of your business? A. I can do an awful lot of guessing.

Q. The employees did you a great service then by going on strike because the shift was laid off?

A. Certainly.

Q. Did you reward them for helping your business out? A. We arranged some amicable terms with them.

MR. LAJOIE: They forgave them. That is a good reward.

MR. McRUER: Forgave them.

Q. Well then, are you sure you did not make this statement to the papers as a little intimidation to the employees about the dangers of the general

election?

MR. LANCTOT: Is that under the Order-In-Council, my lord?

MR. LAJOIE: That is politics. That is not a royal inquiry. We are of the same party but I disagree with my friend on this statement.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, it comes down to this. Mr. Whitehead says he made a statement. Now, Mr. McRuer wants to know whether it was made in good faith or not and he is asking that question.

MR. LAJOIE: He went further than that. He says is it to intimidate your employees, to make them vote on such a side.

THE COMMISSIONER: Alright, let him answer.

MR. LAJOIE: That is too much.

THE COMMISSIONER: How is it too much?

MR. LAJOIE: Because it is irrelevant to the inquiry. You are not called to decide whether the company is asking these employees to vote for such a party.

THE COMMISSIONER: If Mr. Whitehead had made no statement the question would not have arisen, but he gave reasons why he was taking off the night shift and Mr. McRuer shows that these reasons proved to be wrong because of the production which came on which was disposed of after the night shift was taken back.

MR. LAJOIE: But he gave an answer to that.

THE COMMISSIONER: Now he asks him were you in good faith when you made that statement. Did you

really mean that?

MR. LAJOIE: I suppose that question is alright, but when he goes further and says was it to influence your employees, then I think I am right to intervene and say that is politics, that is not inquiry.

THE COMMISSIONER: He is cross-examining.

MR. LAJOIE: I know -- no, he is not cross-examining. That is his witness, that is not cross-examination.

THE COMMISSIONER: I allow the question so that is the end of that.

THE WITNESS: Will you repeat that question, Mr. McRuer?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Probably I better just read the statement so that you will get it fresh in your mind. A. I know exactly what the statement is.

Q. Here is the statement you made.

> "The approach of the federal elections always occasions a certain perturbation in the industrial world, particularly with all cotton which has special need of tariff protection. Cotton buyers", he added" are at present in a state of uncertainty as to the tariff policy of the next government and refuse to place orders in advance."

Now, did you mean that statement tobe taken as literally true and the reason why you are laying off the shift or was the laying off of the shift accompanied with

ith this statement so that the employees would be isturbed about the dangers in a change of government?
. That statement was made following a telephone call rom the local paper asking me why one shift had been aid off. The article was not given by me as ublicity or propaganda in any way, shape or form ut was the absolute truth, the true facts of what as the case at the time the article was given. I ave sufficient knowledge to know that the employees usually gote against what the company says.

Q. I see. I don't know how you know how they vote? A. Well, we always lose.

Q. "We always lose". Well, that is one way of putting it.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is that document? It is not a new one?

MR. McRUER: No, my lord.

Q. I asked you to prepare for me a statement in regard to the tax concessions that the company has enjoyed in the City of Three Rivers. This is a correct statement? A. Yes, sir.

Q. This will be Exhibit number 97.

EXHIBIT NO. 97: Statemeng regarding tax concessions.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it, a statement of tax exemptions?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

MR. LAJOIE: We call it in the Province of Quebec, the commutation of taxes.

MR. McRUER: A more accurate way of describing it.

THE COMMISSIONER: It may only be a partial exemption.

MR. LAJOIE: A fixed valuation. They pay all taxes on a fixed valuation.

MR. McRUER: It reads as follows;

"At a meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Three Rivers held on January 11th, 1932, a resolution was adopted providing that all the immoveable and other taxable property including buildings, machinery and accessories now held by the Company, its Representatives, successors or assigns, situated in the limits of the City of Three Rivers for the purpose of its industrial exploitation be, for a period of ten (10) years, to be computed from January 1st, 1932, valued at a fixed sum of $2,000,000 for the purpose of the imposition of all annual, general and special taxes.

The resolution further provided that during the said period of ten years the Company, its successors, representatives or assigns, shall be exempt from the business tax which the City may impose under the Act 21, Geo. V., Chap., 128, Sec 11 and its amendments.

The said resolution of the Council of the City of Three Rivers of January 11th, 1932, was duly confirmed and ratified for all legal purposes by an Act of the Quebec Legislature, being 22

"Geo. V., Chap. 108, assented to February 19th, 1932 and was duly approved by the majority in number and value of the electors who are property owners in the City of Three Rivers."

The vote on this appears to have been taken in regard to the majority in number and value of the electors. I don't know how -- what your law is here.

MR. LAJOIE: I will give it to you. 1209 voted for, 123 voted against. In value $19,235,751 voted for and $920,400 voted against.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, under this tax exemption -- commutation, you had a fixed assessment of $2,000,000? A. Fixed valuation.

Q. $2,000,000 for ten years? A. Yes, I agree. I am not sure of the figures, but I agree.

Q. I think your annual report values your machinery and assets at about $9,000,000? A. I think approximately that is right.

MR. LAJOIE: Here is the city reports.

MR. McRUER: Well, I haven't got much of it -- that was the assessment.

MR. LAJOIE: This is in comparison with the first commutation. The privilege granted is according to the value given by the one who gives it. If the city gives a valuation of $3,000,000 and grants a commutation of $2,000,000 it is only a privilege of $1,000,000.

THE COMMISSIONER: 33-1/3%.

MR. McRUER: I take it that your law is the same as ours, that some ratepayer might appeal if it were not fixed by statute, and raise it from three million to probably six or seven.

MR. LAJOIE: Our laws are very simple in this province. The city had the right to pass this by-law provided it would have been ratified by the majority in number and value of the ratepayers and sanctioned by the legislature, which was done.

MR. McRUER: I am not quarreling with it. I am just saying that the assessment may be varied from time to time. The municipality may raise its assessment if it is not restricted from doing so by statute.

MR. LAJOIE: For your information the assessment here in Three Rivers is very high. It is not like in the parishes. When it is one hundred and thirty here it is the exact, real value and you should see the complaints when they revise the rolls. They offer their property at half the valuation.

MR. McRUER: You do not suggest that this company has put in its annual statement assets of nine million, six hundred thousand dollars that have only a valuation of three million.

MR. LAJOIE: No. In that valuation you do not see only the assets on the roll. They have something else. They have the Shawinigan Cotton.

THE COMMISSIONER: What property is assessable for municipal purposes, their lands and their

buildings.

MR. LAJOIE: Land, buildings and machinery in this province are immoveables. Machinery in this province is immoveable.

THE COMMISSIONER: Those are the three things that are assessable by the city?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Not the goods and stock?

MR. LAJOIE: No.

MR. McRUER: The real estate, plant, buildings, machinery, etc. The inventory and the accounts receivable and investments are all separate. They are not included in that.

THE COMMISSIONER: Not included in that.

MR. McRUER: No.

Q. Now, you were telling me this morning, I think that there had been a previous arrangement -- at least, I had read it from the annual report or somewhere that there had been a previous arrangement about the fixed assessment which expired in 1927, I think it was, wasn't it? A. I would not like to answer that question, Mr. McRuer. I would sooner you asked that question of somebody that knows more about it. Mr. Lajoie might be able to give you the details more accurately.

MR. LAJOIE: I can tell you the whole story from the beginning.

MR. McRUER: Well, we will get that after and not keep Mr. Whitehead standing while we are doing it.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Lajoie wants to be a witness.

MR. LAJOIE: I will be a laughing witness, just like you(Mr. Whitehead).

MR. McRUER: Next exhibit number, please.

SECRETARY WHITELEY: 98.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it?

MR. McRUER: Q. It is a statement of the executives' salaries; that is correct, is it? A. Yes, sir.

EXHIBIT NO. 98: Statement of executives' salaries.

Q. 1929 to 1934, and then we have to attach to that -- this is 1935, is it? A. Yes, sir, that is 1935. We presented 1935 as you asked for that first.

THE COMMISSIONER: Put them all in as one exhibit. That will be the executives' salaries 1929 to 1935?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. Then, I have a complete statement showing the value of manufactured products, the profits, the percentage to sales, the net profits, and dividends paid from 1917 to 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 99.

EXHIBIT NO. 99: Statement of value of manufactured goods, profit percentage to sales, net profits, and dividends paid.

THE COMMISSIONER: Show it to him a moment. Have you shown it to the witness.

MR. McRUER: Oh,--

THE WITNESS: That is correct.

MR. McRUER: That is correct.

THE COMMISSIONER: Show it to me, Mr. Whiteley.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I see the Wabasso Cotton Company is redeeming one of its bond issues at the present time or is it the whole of the bond issue? A. The Wabasso has redeemed or is redeeming -- I don't know which, has or is -- has redeemed all the various bond issues which it has outstanding and consolidated them in one general trust under a new issue.

Q. I thought that is what they did a while ago? A. Well, it is just -- this is the business of doing.

Q. This is just the culmination of that? A. This is the business of doing.

Q. What was the total bond issue outstanding? A. Was it three millions? I would not like to say without consulting the actual statement.

Q. You are paying off the issues that are outstanding on the other companies and placing a new bond issue on the consolidated assets? A. Yes.

Q. Shawinigen and what is Mercerizers, Limited? A. That was a little company that was formed considerably before my time, I believe, for mercerizing cotton yarns. The assets, I believe, were actually purchased afterwards by the Shawinigan Cotton Company.

Q. Purchased by the Shawinigan Cotton Company? A. Yes.

Q. Then, do you know anything about the Shawinigan

Knitting Company? A. I know something about it but it was long before I ever came to this company.

Q. What happened to it? A. Defunct, in bankruptcy.

Q. It went into bankruptcy? A. I don't know whether they actually went to bankruptcy proceedings, but I understand it was bankrupty in all the sense of the word.

Q. Not operating any more? A. No.

Q. Now, I asked you to produce the correspondence that you might have in reference to teriff matters with the government or members of the government? A. Mr. Lajoie, you have that package somewhere around.

MR. LAJOIE: Where are they?

THE WITNESS: That is it there.

MR. LAJOIE: Until what time must we sit to-night, this afternoon?

THE COMMISSIONER: This is Saturday.

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, and I have the organization of a banquet for to-night.

THE COMMISSIONER: I just want to make sure what exhibits you put in. 99 was the last one?

MR. McRUER: Yes, that is the last one.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then, we can let it stand till Monday morning.

MR. McRUER: Very well, my lord.

-- Whereupon the Commission adjourned at 4.05 p.m. to resume at 10 o'clock a.m., Monday March 30th.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,

Commissioner.

A.S. Whiteley, Secretary,

NINTH DAY

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,
Commissioner.

A.S. Whiteley, Secretary.

Appearances:

J.C. McRuer, K.C., and E. Beauregard, K.C.	Commission Counsel,
J.P. Lanctot, K.C.,	For special Committee of Primary Textile Industries,
S.G. Dixon, K.C.,	For Cortaulds Limited,
L.A. Forsyth, K.C.	For Canadian Celanese Limited and Canadian Silk Products Limited.
Francois Lajoie, K.C.,	For the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited.
Hormidas Gariepy,	For the Local Union of the United Textile Workers of America.

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

Three Rivers, P.Que.
30th March, 1936.

-- On resuming at 10 o'clock A.M.

--

WILLIAM J. WHITEHEAD, Examination by MR. McRUER, (resumed).

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, I understand that there is something you want to correct in reference to your evidence given on Saturday dealing with the question of the importation of British goods, and your evidence in respect to dumping of British goods. What is/you want to say about that? A. I spoke to Ottawa regarding the dumping and I found, after a discussion of it with them, that a report was made by Ottawa on those two cases which I referred to in my evidence of Saturday.

Q. Mr. Hooper was speaking to you? A. Yes, Mr. Hooper was speaking to me, and I also spoke myself to Ottawa.

Q. Now, what do you want to say about the report? A. I got a report to say, that the Department has investigated those two cases and did not find that there was dumping.

Q. Did not find that there was dumping? A. Yes.

Q. Then we seem to have cleared this: That in respect to your allegations of dumping of British goods on the only two cases that you were able to bring forward in any sort of definite form, as stated by you on Saturday, the Department has investigated and report that they have found there was no dumping?

A. That is correct.

MR. McRUER: All right now, Mr. Whitehead, if you would sit down for a few minutes---

THE WITNESS: I would also like, Mr. McRuer, to correct a statement I made on Saturday with regard to the destruction of the piece-work rates in the years prior to 1933. I stated that they were destroyed in December and January of this year. Myself I was not satisfied, as I had not investigated their destruction, so over the week-end I investigated that, and I found, that all piece-work rates that were obsolete and not in force up to 1933 were destroyed during the summer of 1933, and that the balance of the rates which were made obsolete by the changes in 1935 were destroyed during the months of July and August of 1935, and that the official rates to-day are the only ones which we have in our possession, and are those which are in operation to-day.

Q. You say "official rates". Have you any information that would give me an indication of what your rates were, of what the rates were as shown on these records that were destroyed? A. Well, those rates, Mr. McRuer, which you have had are rates that we have been able to pick up around the plant, the rates which are given in the reports and which have been tabled here. They have been collected from odds bits of evidence that has been lying around by the overseers.

Q. I don't quite understand what you mean, because I don't think I have anything here which indicates

what they were prior to 1931? A. That is as far as we have got.

Q. Well now, everything we have here seems to start in 1931? A. Yes.

Q. Exhibits 83, 84, 85 and 86 are the ones that deal with those. And there is no one that can give us any information at all in reference to what they were before that? A. There is absolutely nothing and no one.

THE COMMISSIONER: Except the working people themselves.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: And pay envelopes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. In reference to the change in 1931, was that a change scaling down wage rates? A. Will you repeat that, please?

Q. I say, when you made the change in 1931 were you scaling down wage rates? A. Not so much scaling down wage rates as changing the tasks.

Q. Well, --- A. With a corresponding adjustment in wage rates.

Q. In the first place, we have it that what you mean by changing the tasks--

THE COMMISSIONER: Changing what?

MR. McRUER: Changing the tasks, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. By changing the tasks you mean that you were getting more production for the same amount of wages? A. Certainly.

Q. That is one thing. And then as to those that were paid hourly, were you not scaling down the hourly rate that they were getting? A. That was answered the same way, Mr. McRuer. We were changing the tasks of the men onhourly rates.

Q. Yes, but those men that were on the hourly rates were being paid less per hour? A. No, they were being paid approximately the same per hour but their tasks were greater.

Q. Their tasks were greater? A. Yes.

Q. Of course, we only have the information of the employees to tell us whether they got the same per hour or not? A. Yes, but also in connection with that the actual earnings dropped in that period due to the changing of the system and inefficient operations, but actually it was not until later on that there was any what you might call reductions in rates. It was not until, I think, 1932 or 1933 that the actual reductions in rates took place.

Q. Well then, there was an actual reduction in rates in 1932? A. Not a general reduction, but throughout the mill in different tasks and operations--

Q. Yes? A. There were reductions made of individual tasks and operations.

Q. Well, to what extent were the wages reduced? A. Well, they varied from about 2½ per cent. to about 10 per cent.

Q. From 2½ per cent. to 10 per cent.? A. Yes.

Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, I put this to you:

In 1930 there was a very definite change in the tariff policy of this country? A. Yes.

Q. Yes. That was, I may say, I think, favoured by the Textile Industry as a whole? A. Yes.

Q. And one of the very definite reasons that that was put forward as a question of policy was because it was to be for the advantage of the wage-earners of the country? A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that it was quite fair to the wage earners of the country that within two years after that policy was changed, you and your industries scaled down the wage rates twice? A. Yes. I not only think it was perfectly fair but I think it was perfectly justified and legitimate, because if it had not been done the wage-earners in the industry would not have earned any wages at all; at the rate we were going at that time we were gradually being forced out of competition.

Q. Getting forced what? A. Out of competition.

Q. Forced out of competition? A. Yes.

Q. Well, the tariff was such as to exclude almost all competition with Canada? A. It was when it was made, but the reduction in prices, the reduction in all basic prices has been generally getting lower, has been steadily getting lower ever since 1930, and we had to bring down our basic rates even with the protection to compete with that outside competition, without the outside selling prices.

Q. So that your contention still is, that if

the tariff had been higher than you got you would have been able to keep your wages up? A. I would like you to repeat that, Mr. McRuer.

Q. I say, is your contention still now that you should have had a higher tariff than you have had since 1930 so that you can keep your wages up? A. My contention is, that if you wish to have the wages put up any higher than they are to-day then you would require a higher tariff than you have now.

Q. Well, I see that according to this statement, Exhibit 77, that I put in ---

THE COMMISSIONER: That means then, Mr. McRuer, that this outside competition is keeping wages down?

MR. McRUER: Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Do you suggest then that it is to-day the outside competition that is keeping wages down? A. Yes.

Q. Well, do you realise that the purchasing price or the purchasing power rather of the consumer in this country is something to be considered? A. Well, I ould like to enlarge on that question, Mr. McRuer; it is rather difficult to answer it as you put it.

Q. Then I put it straight to you in this way: Has the purchasing power of the consumer any consideration at all with you? A. The purchasing power of the consumer has a great deal of consideration with us, and it is due to the purchasing power of the consumer that we have had to bring down the cost of operations.

To-day, as I see the situation, operations have got to be carried on with the principal of distribution being paramount to that of higher prices. It is impossible at the present time to raise your price lists. The greater your distribution, or the cheaper your prices the greater your distribution; and the greater your distribution the more employees you can have with the chances of paying higher rates. But the first thing you have got to consider at the present time is to get the distribution.

Q. Well, you are not complaining of any foreign competition at the present time? A. Yes, I have complained.

Q. Well, you say that you think there is some British dumping. Do you contend, that the consuming public of Canada have not a right to buy anything outside of Canada? A. Would you repeat that, please?

Q. I say, do you contend that the consuming public of Canada have not a right to buy anything outside of Canada? A. The consuming public have the right to buy what they like and where they like.

Q. Well, if they can get it over the tariff barriers that are erected? A. Yes, but also our own consuming public, which is represented by the employees of our company, have also got a right to earn their living.

Q. Yes, that is what I think you and I are agreed on, that in 1930 the consuming public of Canada were excluded almost totally from the foreign market in these industries, and since that time the wage-earners

have been cut twice by your Company? A. I would not go to the extent, Mr. McRuer, of saying they were entirely excluded from the foreign market, because that is not the case.

Q. To what extent would it be necessary to raise the tariff? You are not serious in that, that to all practical purposes they are not entirely excluded from the foreign market? A. I beg yourpardon?

Q. You are not serious in saying that, for all practical purposes, they are not almost entirely excluded from the foreign market at the present time? A. I say that the consuming public to-day are not excluded from the foreign markets. They may be having to pay slightly higher prices than they would if there were no tariff at all but they are still able to get those fine goods. If you take the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Report, which is issued monthly, and go back over the period from the inception of the Bennett tariff, you will find that the importations from Britain have doubled, and in some cases almost trebled.

Q. I suppose in some of these fine goods that are free of duty? A. No, sir, in coarse goods.

Q. Well, we are going to deal with that in detail, and if you will let some of the importers speak about that, because they probably are authorities on it. Now, Mr. Whitehead, in speaking of the drop in wages since 1930, I want to draw your attention again to Exhibit 77. I find that the salaries, in 1928,

bore the relationship of 20.2 per cent. to the total output, while in 1935 they were 35 per cent.
A. You raised the question on Saturday.

Q. So that salaries do not appear to have declined over this period during the protection in the same proportion that wages had? A. Actually - and I am only speaking, Mr. McRuer, from memory - what occurred had nothing actually to do with it; the staff salaries declined actually greater at one period than the wages declined, But the staff, at the same period, I think you will find, was increased, so that the total did not change so very much.

Q. Your staff salaries must have come back with a great zip than the wages came back? A. I would like to see just what period you are referring to.

Q. In 1928, there were 130 people on salary who received $322,749? A. Would you show that to me while you are reading it?

Q. Yes. In 1928, 130 people received $322,749? A. Yes.

Q. While in 1935, 133 people received $342,040?
A. Yes.

Q. Now, if salaries decline at any period they seem to have got back with quite a zip? A. Well, it is very difficult for me to state just what they were at that time, but there have been considerable changes in the staff during this period of years.

Q. Yes. Well, take in 1933, 108 received $280,919?
A. 108, yes.

Q. And in 1932, 114 received $298,868? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1931, 126 received $346,857? A. Yes.

Q. Now, you realise there, that at the time you are making the change, and scaling down the wages, 126 people were receiving, on salary, the greatest amount that had been paid throughout the whole history of the Company; $346,000 seems to have been the peak that you have paid for salaries throughout the whole history of the Company, and there were only 126 people. A. The question, Mr.McRuer, is, that there was during that period, as compared with this period here --

Q. I am just pointing out, that while you are excusing the cut in wages on the ground that you had to sell cheaper, and the purchasing power was lower in Canada, yet the salaries seemed to have got higher per man in 1935 than they were in 1928? A. Well, of course, they are also wage-earners in the sense of the word too? Q. Oh yes, they are wage-earners but of a different type, and that is what I say, you excuse the low wages of one earner on one ground and I wondered why it did not apply to salaried people the same as the working man.

MR. LANCTOT: My lord, before making a statement on that it all depends on the basis.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is to say, the salary list does not distinguish between management and workers.

MR. LANCTOT: Not necessarily; we don't know.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is there any list which shows

how much of these salaries went to what you call the management?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Who is in charge of your census of industry? A. The Office Manager.

Q. Well now, I would suggest that the Office Manager come here with his book and we will take it from your own records as well. I have no doubt that the records at Ottawa are the same as your own. You would not send a record down there that was not the same as your own? A. No.

Q. Then just suggest to him to come down with the book.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is, you differentiate between management salaries and workers' salaries?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. We will see what the classification is.

Then, Mr. Whitehead, if you will just step down for a moment. Mr. C.R. Whitehead is here and I understand he wants to go to Montreal, so I agreed to call him this morning.

--

CHARLES ROSS WHITEHEAD, Sworn,

EXAMINED BY MR. McRUER:

Q. Mr. Whitehead, you have been in the cotton business how long? A. Since 1882.

Q. Since 1882? A. Yes.

Q. Where were you engaged in business before you started the Wabasso Company? A. Well, I started

first of all in the old Victor Hudon Cotton Mill in Montreal for a few years, which afterwards became the Hochelaga Cotton Mills, and which later on became the Dominion Cotton Company, and later on the Dominion Textile Company. I learned my business there, and in 1887 I went to Montmorency Falls and started a large cotton mill there for the export trade to China and to Central Afrida. After a number of years we left the Chinese market, after the Boxer trouble.

Q. What was the name of the Company? A. The Montmorency Cotton Mills Company. Well, after the Boxer trouble we left the Chinese market and came into this market, and have continued in this market; they are still in the market to-day; they are still manufacturing for this market.

Q. What time did you change from the Chinese market? A. Well, it was the year of the Boxer trouble.

Q. About 1888?

THE COMMISSIONER: Later than that, Mr. McRuer.

THE WITNESS: It was later than that, because we started our mill in 1887. It was somewhere in the 90's.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, the Boxer trouble was in the '90's.

THE WITNESS: Well, while I was at Montmorency I also became the Managing Director of the Old Dominion Cotton Company.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. That was at Hochelaga?

Q. I see. Who were the other managers? A. My cousin, W.T. Whitehead, who came from the Magog plant; A.B. Mole, who came from the States; he was the business manager.

Q. Very well. A. Well then, in 1907 I left the Textile and came down here and started the Wabasso.

Q. Yes, and was any one associated with you in embaring on the Warbasso venture? A. Do you mean particularly associated with me?

Q. Yes? A. Well, I went around the country to people I knew and to people I did not know, and I sold the bonds and securities, and brought together the neuclus of business men. Up to that time they had not been particularly connected with me. We had, I think, 7,500 shares.

Q. Just a minute. We will get the minute book and we will get everything accurate. I want to send these Minute Books back with the Secretary, so you will pardon me if I just get some extracts from them on the record. Now, apparently, the first records of the Company commence on the 29th of May, 1907? A. Yes, about that time.

Q. Yes. And on the incorporation of the Company you received certain shares?

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Was this a Dominion Company or a Quebec Company?

MR. McRUER: It was incorporated under the Dominion Companies Act, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. The total capitalization was how much? A. I think it was 7,500 shares altogether. There were 5,000 shares of common, then two or three months later, by by-law, as I recollect, we created$250,000 of preferred which were never issued, and a little later was cancelled and brought back again.

Q. $250,000? A. That would be 2500 shares of $100.00 each, preferred.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. 2500 shares of $100.00 each? A. Yes, preferred stock, which was afterwards cancelled and went back into common stock which we never issued; we remained with 7500 authorized of common stock.

Q. Par value of $100.00? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: So the capitalization would be $750,000? A. With 5,000 issued.

Q. With 5,000 issued? A. Yes.

Q. At the first stage? A. At the first stage, yes.

Q. I want to read, first, from page 11. Well, probably I had better go back to pages 8 and 9; we have some information on page 8, which is a meeting of the shareholders, the first general meeting of shareholders of the Wabasso Cotton Company, held at the office of Messrs Greenshields, Greenshields & Languedoc, 86 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal, on Wednesday the 29th day of May, 1907, and on page 8 it states:

> "The Chairman then laid before the meeting the Subscription book for stock ..... "

And then:

"The chairman then laid before the meeting the by-laws adopted by the Provisional Board of Directors, and on motion of Mr. Greenshields, seconded by Mr. Calder, the said by-laws were ratified, approved and adopted as the by-laws of the Company."

Then further:

"The Chairman then laid before the meeting an offer in writing from Mr. Charles R.Whitehead, by which heoffers to sell to this Company for the sum of Five hundred and twelve thousand dollars ($512,000):-

1. A tract of land situate in the City of Three Rivers, comprising Lot No. 1129 of the Official Plant and Book of Reference of the Notre Dame Ward in the Town of Three Rivers, the whole as more fully set forth in the said Charles R.Whitehead's letter of date the 28th May, 1907."

(Page 1175 follows)

"(2). Contract with the Shawinigan Water Power Company for the supply of power to a cotton factory at Three Rivers calling for a maximum amount of power of four thousand horsepower for a period of 26 years with the right to renew the said contract for a further period of 25 years.

(3) The benefits, and monies accruing to the said Charles R. Whitehead and his associates under and by virtue of a by-law passed by the City of Three Rivers wherein they gave a bonus of $75,000 with certain commutation of taxes for a period of years as a bonus for the construction and operation of a cotton factory at Three Rivers, said bonus payable by the delivery when earned to Whitehead or his assigns in the form of 50 year gold bonds bearing interest at 4% per annum payable semi-annually."

A. Would you just read that part again, Mr. McRuer, please, about the bonds?

Q. Yes. "The said bonus payable by the delivery when earned to Whitehead or his assigns in the form of 50 year gold bonds bearing interest at 4% per annum payable semi annually."

THE COMMISSIONER: That is $75,000?

MR. McRUER: $75,000.

THE WITNESS: That is right.

MR. McRUER: "The said Mr. Whitehead by the terms of the said letter offered to accept in payment of the said amount the sum of $25 ,000 in cash and to receive in payment for the balance $487,000 fully

"paid up and non-assessable stock of the company

"After careful discussion and consideration of the said proposition and offer of Mr. Whitehead and in view of the great value of the water power contract for a period of years and of the municipal bonus and commutation from taxation, and in further consideration of the extremely advantageous position occupied by the City of Three Rivers for the location of a cotton mill it was decided by all the shareholders then present to accept the said offer of the said Charles R. Whitehead. The shareholders then present were L.G. Gregg"-- A. Craig.

Q. That is a misprint, then. "One share, J.N. Greenshields, one share; W.J. Henderson, one share; J. Jenkins, one share; A.C. Calder, one share.

On resolution of the Board of Directors of this Company - on resolution the Board of Directors of this Company were duly authorized and empowered to enter into a contract and agreement with the said Charles R. Whitehead whereby for and in consideration of the sum of $ 512,000 to be paid in the manner as aforesaid, to wit, $25,000 in cash, and by the allotment to the said Charles R. Whitehead of 4,870 shares of fully paid and non-assessable shares of the common or ordinary stock of the company, said Whitehead to assign all and every his right under the agreement entered into by him

"with the Shawinigan Water & Power Company on the 20th day of April, 1907, copy of which agreement has been this day submitted to the meeting.

And the said Whitehead and his associates also to assign their every right and privilege accruing to them under and by virtue of a by-law passed by the City of Three Rivers and homologated by the ratepayers" - what do you call that?

A. Homologated.

Q. That is a term we do not use.

THE COMMISSIONER: Sanctioned.

MR. McRUER: By the ratepayers?

THE COMMISSIONER: Voted on it, they voted on it?

THE WITNESS: Yes, they voted on it.

MR. McRUER: "The w 20th day of April, 1907, copy of which said by-law is also laid before the meeting, as also the transfer and assignment by proper and necessary deeds of the property hereinbefore described, and the directors are authorized and empowered to issue to the said Whitehead the said stock and to pay over the said money in consideration of the transfer as above mentioned."

Q. Now, I see, Mr. Whitehead, that the contract with the Shawinigan Water and Power Company was on the 20th day of April, 1907? A. Yes.

Q. So that the contract that you had made with the Shawinigan Water Power Company had been made slightly - within slightly a month before this contract?
A. That is so.

Q. I suppose that you made the contract with the

Shawinigan Company with a view to incorporating and erecting a mill here? A. Mr. McRuer, of course, while the actual date you said was May, 1907, did you say -- I think May -- anyway, I came down earlier than that when I made up my mind that Three Rivers was a good locality for a cotton mill. I came down here and I found -- I went first of all to Shawinigan Falls, as a matter of fact and I did not think that was a good locality on account of being away from shipping water. I wanted to get shipping water and shipping facilities if I could. I then found the Shawinigan Water and Power Company had no right to come into the City of Three Rivers so I had some negotiations with them. I finally convinced them that they should be in the City of Three Rivers, that it was the natural harbour of this part of the country and that the growth should be rather here than further up the river, where there was transportation and a good labour market as there was in Three Rivers, and not the same railway facilities and so forth at Shawinigan. Then we negotiated -- the City of Three Rivers got their power from the St. Narcisse Power Company. They had a contract with the City of Three Rivers so that the Shawinigan Water and Power Company had first of all to get hold of the right to come into the City of Three Rivers before I could decide to come here because power was the first essence.

That took a little time. Then I also negotiated-after I saw that the power question had got arranged,

I negotiated with the City of Three Rivers, the city council for that bonus of $75,000. That was to be in two parts. $25,000 was to go with the first mill we were to build but there was an obligation in a certain period of time to build a second mill and the second part of that bonus was to go when we built and carried out certain obligations to the city with the second mill.

Q. The second mill was to be a print mill?
A. No, the word there in English was to make print cloth but in French ~~they~~ said pour faire de l'Indienne. The exact interpretation of that is printed cloth. We were to get 20 years exemption with that and when we built they said you are not making l'Indienne, you are making only cloth. The clear interpretation is easy to be seen. The one is print cloth and the other in the French printed cloth. We lost ten years exemption there, but we got our bonus.

Q. You got your full $75,000? A. Yes.

Q. But they cut off ten years' exemption which was dealt with later on? A. That went on later on but they gave us other considerations for that.

Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, there is just one point I want to clear up in regard to the water power contract. Undoubtedly when you negotiated the contract you did it with a view to establishing a factory here? A. Yes. The various negotiations, naturally, were going on pretty well concurrently. That is, we were talking with the city

council and we knew pretty well we could come here. We were working on the land question, about getting the land and we were working on the power contract.

Q. There was nothing to suggest that you could not have negotiated the same contract on behalf of the company after it was incorporated as you were able to negotiate a few days before it was incorporated? A. We negotiated with the city and with the Shawinigan in the name of Whitehead, Craig and Greenshields. Greenshields was the lawyer, Craig became the secretary-treasurer of the company and we were working together with a view to a company being established. We had to ~~t~~urn it over when the company was established. We deeded the whole thing across.

Q. I just want to get exactly what the picture is. You have no reason to suggest you could not have negotiated the same contract with the Shawinigan Power Company after the company was incorporated as you negotiated with them before? A. I would not have cared, as a business man, to have obligated myself definitely to come here until I knew I had that power because they had no right to come into the city at that time.

Q. But their right to come into the city, you did not get that for them? A. No, they got that but at my request.

Q. Then, in regard to the land that you assigned to the company, you acquired that how long before the

company was incorporated? A. I could not tell you the exact date.

Q. About how long? A. Maybe a month, two months or something like that.

Q. How much did you pay for the land? A. I think it was $13,500 -- $13,000, because we took out 130 shares, as you will see. I got 4870 shares, didn't I.

Q. We will come to that? A. And the difference was the land.

Q. Your recollection is it was about $13,000? A. Yes.

Q. Then, you had an arrangement with the city of Three Rivers that they were to give this company a bonus of $75,000? A. Yes.

Q. If they would establish here; of course, that was really an arrangement that was made with a view to the company being incorporated? A. Yes, if we didn't form the company we didn't get it, naturally.

Q. If you didn't form the company you didn't get it; so that under this agreement --

THE COMMISSIONER: Pardon me, when you say "we" do you mean yourself? A. Just the three, because it was all done in the name of the three.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Apparently under this agreement, then, you got $25,000 in cash and 4,870 shares? A. Yes.

Q. So that you were reimbursed in cash for all

your outlay and a little more; you had your shares besides? A. Yes, except the cash didn't come to us personally.

Q. It didn't go to you personally? A. No.

Q. To whom did it go? A. It went to the company.

Q. The cash, the $25,000? A. Yes, certainly.

Q. That was paid to you; how did it go to the company? A. We paid it over to the company.

Q. You paid it back? A. We didn't take a cent out of that.

Q. Did you not get the shares? A. The only thing we got was the shares, but we didn't get the cash.

Q. When you got the $25,000 in cash how did you get it back to the company? Did you buy shares with it? A. No, we turned it over to them. In other words we figured we were carrying on negotiations and all the way through the negotiations it was understood that a company was to be formed.

THE COMMISSIONER: I understood you to read that part of it, Mr. McRuer, that Mr. Whitehead's offer was that the $75,000 would go to the company.

MR. McRUER: That is the $25,000.

THE WITNESS: That was the first part of the $75,000.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That was one-third of the $75,000? A. There was two sections. The first section when we built it took $25,000 and the second section, which we built only in 1912, took the remaining $50,000, and both of those went naturally

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then, you didn't get any cash for yourself? A. What we got was stock, 4,870 shares.

Q. All stock for those assets that were turned over? A. Yes.

Q. And then at page eleven we have the resolution under which the agreement was adopted and the stock directed to be allotted.

> "On resolution Mr. Whitehead was allotted 4,870 shares of the common stock or ordinary stock of the company, fully paid, non-assessable, and the secretary was instructed and authorized to place such shares so allotted to the credit of Mr. Whitehead in the stock ledger and books of this company."

So far as the stock was concerned that went to you personally, did it? A. It came to me first of all, naturally, as it says there, but when we sold the bonds -- we sold a million dollars of bonds and we gave a bonus.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. When was that? A. That was following right on the steps of the other. We followed right along. As soon as we formed the company and issued the bonds we immediately started out to sell them. We sold a million of bonds and we gave a bonus.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. How much bonus did you give on the million dollars worth of bonds? A. The regular bonus was 20%.

Q. Pardon? A. 20%.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. 20%? A. Yes.

Q. To the purchaser? A. To every purchaser, got 20%. Then, there were certain people underwriting, those who took blocks off our hands, underwriting for us and we gave them more stock as commission for handling it for us.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. How much stock was given away altogether? A. There was about -- I think I got some -- about 900 shares out of the transaction.

Q. You were left with 900 shares?
A. Yes.

Q. Net? A. Yes.

Q. Could you verify that figure for me?
A. I can give you pretty closely to that..

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. $90,000 worth?
A. That would be $90,000 par value, yes. Now also I might just say in selling all these bonds I travelled over the country for several months and there was no commission or anything went with those bonds. The only thing I did get out of the company at all in any shape, form or manner was the number of shares of common stock that I eventually saved out of that 4,870.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, the bonds were first mortgage bonds, were they? A. First mortgage, 40 year gold bonds?

Q. 40 year gold bonds; they are the bonds you are converting at the present time? A. Yes, just

at the present moment, the 1st of May we expect the conversion to be complete.

Q. They bore interest at what rate?

A. 6%.

Q. And the company has, throughout its history, paid the interest on these bonds? A. Yes, sir.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What is the nature of this conversion? A. The nature of this --

Q. You say there is a conversion taking place. A. Yes, just at present, my lord; we have got four issues out. We had the Wabasso Cotton Company; then we had the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Company; then we had the Shawinigan Cotton Company and then we had a second mortgage on the Wabasso Cotton Company. Well, having during these years acquired the common stock of the Shawinigan we decided some few months ago that we would refund the whole four issues, that we would cancel the charter of the Shawinigan Cotton Company entirely and we would reduce the share value of the St. Maurice Valley and take it over and bring it to one issue of bonds which would be the Wabasso bond. We would do away with all these other issues, refunding.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, the refunding operation of these original bonds -- we will probably have to deal with the others later -- is being done at 110? A. 110.

Q. I suppose the bonds had a provision to be callable at 110? A. Was 110 the rate -- yes,

110.

Q. So that those that invested in the bonds originally they got 6% since its inception?

A. If they held on to them, and ten points premium.

Q. Just assuming; and 10 points premium now?

A. Yes.

Q. And in addition tothat a 20% bonus of the original common stock? A. Yes.

Q. Then, on page 12 of this minute book we have the provision for 2,500 shares of preference stock at 7%, preference stock. That, of course, really does not require attention because it was washed out later? A. It was washed out later, yes.

Q. Then, May 17th, 1912, I think, is our next.

A. 1912 is next.

Q. I am reading from the minute book, meeting of the directors on May 17, 1912 --

"The Quebec Savings and Trust Company, the Chairman further advised --"

I think I will read the paragraph above.

"The Chairman then stated to the meeting that the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills, Limited, had been organized for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of cotton goods in the City of Three Rivers, and that it was advisable that the company should arrange to secure an interest in the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills, Limited.

The Quebec Savings and Trust Company, the Chairman further advised, was the owner of 2,500 or $250,000 par value of the common stock

"of the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills, Limited, issued as fully paid and non-assessable, and the said Trust Company had offered to sell the said shares to this Company for the sum of $250,000, the said sum to be payable in and by the allotment and issue to the Quebec Savings and Trust Company or its nominees of a like amount par value, or 2,500 shares of this Company's common stock, as fully paid and non-assessable.

The matter was fully discussed and it was decided that the offer of the Quebec Savings and Trust Company should be accepted and on motion it was resolved that this company purchase from the Quebec Savings and Trust Company 2,500 shares or $250,000 par value of the capital stock of the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills, Limited for the price and sum of $2 50,000 payable in and by the allotment and issue to the said Quebec Savings and Trust Company of a like amount, or 2,500 shares of this company's common stock as fully paid and non-assessable, and that the 2,500 shares of this company's capital stock, be and the same are hereby allotted to the Quebec Savings and Trust Company, and that the said shares be issued and delivered to the Quebec Savings and Trust Company as fully paid and non-assessable upon receipt by this company from the Quebec Savings and Trust Company of the shares of the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills,

"Limited, which are hereby authorized to be purchased"- by the way, Mr. Whitehead, would you like to sit down? A. No, sir, I am all right.

Q. We will be reading considerably from these minute books, now. A. That last, Mr. McRuer, are you still dealing with the 2,500 shares there?

Q. Yes. A. Then you better go on and read about the 10,000. That will give us the whole story.

"The question of the advisability of increasing the company's capital stock was then discussed and it was decided it was advisable to pass a by-law increasing the capital stock of the Co. from $750,000 to $1,750,000.

It was moved, seconded and resolved that the following be enacted as a by-law of the company: namely, be it enacted that the capital stock of this company be and the same is hereby increased from $750,000 to $1,750,000. The increased capital to consist of ten thousand shares of par value of $100 each. Carried."

I think I had better read the next page, too, because it deals with the matter we were discussing. A. Yes.

"On motion it was resolved that a special general meeting of the shareholders of the company should be held at the offices of the company at Three Rivers on Friday, the 31st of May, 1912, at 1.30 P.M. for the purpose of ratifying and confirming the repeal

of special by-law No. 1 of the Company and of ratifying and confirming the enactment of by-law No. 11 of the Company, passed at this meeting, and that the Secretary of the Company be authorized to send out the notices for the said meeting in accordance with the Company's by-law.

The matter of the closing of the company's books was then discussed by the meeting and on motion it was resolved that the closing of the Company's books be postponed until the 30th of June next, 1912. The Chairman then stated to the meeting that the Council of the City of Three Rivers had passed a by-law respecting the establishment of a cotton and print factory in the City of Three Rivers in favour of Messrs. J.N. Greenshields, C.R. Whitehead and Leslie G. Craig, in virtue of which the balance of the bonus granted to this Company, as the representatives of Messrs J.N. Greenshields, C.R.Whitehead and Leslie G. Craig, by a by-law passed by the Council of the City of Three Rivers on the 15th of April, 1907, which said balance amounted to $25,000 was assigned and transferred to J.N. Greenshields, C.R. Whitehead and L.G. Craig, provided that this Company abandon all the right which it has or may have to the said bonus, and that it execute a notarial deed of discharge to the corporation for the same.

Messrs. J.N. Greenshields, C.R.Whitehead and L.G. Craig desired to avail themselves

of the provisions of this by-law and requested that this company should execute the above-mentioned discharge; and on motion it was resolved that this company execute a notarial deed of discharge to the corporation of the City of Three Rivers, abandoning all the rights which it has or may have to a bonus of $25,000 for the establishment of a cotton factory in the City of Three Rivers, representing the balance of the bonus granted to this company as representatives of Messrs J.N. Greenshields, C.R. Whitehead, and Leslie G. Craig, in virtue of the by-law passed by the Council of the City of Three Rivers on the 15th of April, 1907, and approved by the Municipal Electors on the 20th of April of the same year; and that the President, Mr. C.R. Whitehead, and the Secretary, Mr. S.B. Cayford, be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to execute the said deed for and on behalf of this company."

That transaction was later changed, was it, to something else? A. No, that pretty well gives the story, I think, Mr. McRuer. At that point, if I might explain to you --

Q. Yes. A. You were dealing with the bonus question. I think it is last mentioned. We will clear that up. We wanted to build the second section. We were ready to build another mill and discussing that amongst ourselves, the Boar

Directors, we found that the only way we could do that was to issue a second mortgage bond. We wanted to issue more bonds and the second mortgage bond was not so saleable so we decided we would form the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills and issue bonds of the St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills Company. Then, we wanted to get this $50,000 bonus which was coming from the city to Greenshields, Craig and Whitehead and turn it over to the new company, the St. Maurice Valley Company, so that we got the city to turn that over to the St. Maurice Valley Company. That finished the $75,000. That is when we got it and that finished it. Then the St. Maurice Company itself issued -- we got an authorized issue of $2,500,000 of bonds, that we issued, or,at least,we issued --

Q. That is the St. Maurice Valley?

A. Yes, and as I recollect we issued one million, five hundred thousand and we kept one hundred thousand in the treasury and never issued them. Then --

Q. Just a moment till I get that again, Mr. Whitehead. You got an authorized issue --

A. Of two million, five hundred thousand and we issued one million, five hundred thousand and we retained one million.

Q. In the treasury? A. Yes.

Q. Of bonds of the St. Maurice Company?

A. Yes. Then we started in to sell these bonds. First of all let us go back to the stock --

Q. What was the authorized capitalization of the

St. Maurice Company? A. It was one million, two hundred and fifty thousand, was it not, one million, two hundred and fifty thousand, and the Wabasso Company, we got two million, five hundred thousand and we issued ten and that made the same amount --

Q. Just a moment, one million, five hundred thousand St. Maurice? A. One million, five hundred thousand of bonds issued.

Q. No -- A. And of common stock, one million, two hundred and fifty thousand. Then, you see Wabasso had taken authority to issue ten thousand shares plus 2,500 left over from the original 7,500 and that made 12,500 shares of Wabasso that was still available and we exchanged them share for share with the St. Maurice.

Q. Just a moment, I want to get --

A. Let me go a bit further, it will help you a bit. Then we got 12,500 shares of the St. Maurice then in the treasury of the Wabasso and they are still there and they have stayed there ever since, of the St. Maurice Valley.

Q. When you started out to incorporate the St. Maurice Valley Company you decided on a capitalization of one million, two hundred and fifty thousand?

A. Yes.

Q. Or 12,500 shares of common stock?

A. Yes.

Q. That was apparently issued to the Quebec Savings and Trust Company? A. The Savings and

Trust Company.

Q. And then you entered into an agreement with the Quebec Savings and Trust Company to exchange 12,500 shares of Wabasso for -- A. 12,500 of St. Maurice.

Q. 12,500 St. Maurice? A. Yes.

Q. Did anyone have any interest in the incorporating in the promotion shares of the St. Maurice? A. At that point, you see, as far as the Wabasso was concerned it had 12,500 shares of the St. Maurice in its treasury and then the Quebec Savings and Trust Company had 12,500 shares of the Wabasso. Then the bonds, we gave a 50% bonus so that took --

Q. Just a moment, with the bonds on the St. Maurice Company you have a 50% bonus of Wabasso stock? A. Yes.

Q. So that the purchasers of St. Maurice bonds got -- A. 50% --

Q. For ever thousand dollars they got $500 par value of Wabasso stock? A. Yes.

Q. I see; and then, was any left after the 50% was taken out? A. Yes, that was handled more or less the same as the original five thousand shares.

Q. Let us have that. A. The figure I gave you was about what was left to me after the whole transaction was through, but I will give you those actual figures. I can get very very close to

them.

Q. I just want to see if I can get near them at all. Were there not others -- were Mr. Craig and Mr. Greenshields and Mr. Pringle not interested in this pretty well together with you, in the same terms? A. Yes, Mr. Greenshields got some and Mr. Craig got some and I think Mr. Pringle got some too, but Pringle got it from me.

Q. I notice at the meeting of the 31st of May, 1912 at which this deal was put through ~~that~~ with the Quebec Savings Company? A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Craig represents 819 shares? A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Pringle represents 760 shares and Mr. Greenshields represents 791 shares and you represent, you and your wife -- no, Mrs.W.T. Whitehead -- A. That was Mr. W.T. Whitehead. That was the man who came from Magog, that built the Mount Royal Spinning Company in Montreal. He was a member of our company at that time, my cousin.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Your Cousin? A. Yes, my cousin.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Mrs. W.T. Whitehead, and Mrs. L.A. Whitehead for 794 and you are down for 66? A. 794, who was that?

Q. Mrs. L.A. Whitehead. A. That is my mother.

Q. 794 between two? A. Yes.

Q. Then you are down for 66? A. That would make 860.

Q. 860. A. That is about,-about 900 shares I gave it to my mother because my mother, as a matter of fact, had set me up in the first place when I was ayoung man, to start up, and I gave it back to her.

Q. Then, were you and Craig and Pringle and Greenshields not a syndicate? A. No, there was no syndicate, but we were all much interested. Pringle was the engineer who did all the engineering work.

Q. Things seem to have been split in about four ways? A. Greenshields did all the legal work and I did the organizing and running of the work and my cousin, William Whitehead, looked after the sales managing, and so forth.

Q. Then, at this meeting the Quebec Savings and Trust Company are down for 2,500 shares? A. Yes.

Q. I was wondering how they -- oh yes, I see, that is after? A. Yes.

Q. This meeting follows the other, this is after the stock had been exchanged? A. Yes.

Q. Now, of that 2500 shares, would it be about half of it that was used -- there would not be half of it used on the 50% bonus? A. There would be 7,500 shares used altogether on the 50%.

Q. Out of the 2,500? A. No, out of 12,500; out of 12,500 the bonus of 50% would take 7,500. That would leave 5,000 to deal with there.

Q. Well, let us see -- A. 12,500

Q. 12,500 exchanged -- A. The 50% bonus would take 7,500 from that and that would leave you 5,000.

Q. Yes; so that there were 5,000 shares of Wabasso left to be divided among four? A. Yes, of course, we didn't get that all because there were other divisions beyond that again. There were bonuses for selling bonds and so forth. I can tell you, Mr. McRuer, pretty well to satisfy you by looking up. I think I canx tell you pretty well.

Q. I want to know what was left for the four? A. I think I can give you those figures pretty well. It was not as large as it looks there.

Q. What did the four who promoted the St. Maurice Company give for the four thousand shares, or whatever it was, of Wabasso that they ultimately got? A. We went and got further power contracts and so forth.

Q. Is the agreement with the St. Maurice Company, that we can get a copy of, just the same as this? A. I don't know whether there is one or not.

Q. On the minutes of the St. Maurice Company, which will show what the 12,500 shares was given for.

MR. CAPEL: Well, the minute books of the St. Maurice will indicate that the 12,500 shares was exchanged for 12,500 Wabasso.

MR. McRUER: No, the exchange would be made with with the Quebec Savings Company. I wanted to know if there would be any agremment in the minute books

of the St. Maurice Company which would show for what consideration they are issued to the Quebec Savings Company. There would be something of that sort, if you would look it up and let me have a copy of it. We do not need to wait now.

MR. LANCTOT: That must be the formation of the company.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then, may we say that you netted and each one of your associates would net somewhere in the neighbourhood of 900 shares? A. No, we did not all net that much as I recollect it. I would have to make a little study of that for you.

Q. I would just like to know what you and your associates got? A. I think I got about 900 and I think Mr. Greenshields got 900 and I think the others got less.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Shares of Wabasso? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. They got that out of the original incorporation? A. No, they did not get 900 and 900. We got 900 altogether. My share was about 900 shares on the whole deal up to this point, from the original up to now, was about 900 shares. I think I can give you that, Mr. McRuer, pretty well, this division, and save you a lot of trouble.

Q. If I could just get it accurately, how much you got out of the transaction? A. Well, I will have to look that up.

Q. How much you netted out of the second transaction, you and each of your associates?

A. Yes.

Q. Well then, there is -- at the 31st of May, 1912 there are 2,500 shares still with the Quebec Savings and Trust Company? A. Yes, I can explain -- I think that I will have to look it up for you.

Q. Well, I wondered who they were held for? A. They went to different people who sold bonds and different things like that.

Q. Well then, the next transaction, the 27th of June, 19 -- A. The next was when we issued no par value stock, I think, for the one hundred dollar par value stock, two for one.

Q. We have had that. The increase in capital on the 27th of June there --

THE COMMISSIONER: What year?

MR. McRUER: The 27th of June, 1912, my lord, the same year.

"The Chairman advised that the Quebec Savings & Trust Company had written this Company stating that they (Quebec Savings & Trust Co.) had been instructed by certain clients to offer to sell to this company ten thousand shares of the capital stock of St. Maurice Valley Cotton Mills Limited issued as fully paid and non-assessable, for the price of one million dollars, payment of which would be accepted in and by the allotment and issue to the Quebec Savings

"& Trust Company or their nominees of a like amount, or ten thousand shares of the capital stock of this company as fully paid and non-assessable."

A. That is the ten thousand that makes the twelve thousand, five hundred. That is the same ten thousand you are talking of.

Q. You had two thousand five hundred in the treasury? A. Yes, and then this other ten thousand made twelve thousand, five hundred.

Q. Well, that apparently -- the two thousand five hundred that is shown as being held by the Quebec Savings and Trust Company on the 31st of May, 1912, would be the two thousand, five hundred that was in the treasury? A. Yes.

Q. The Quebec Company had not received the ten thousand shares apparently at that time but did receive them following the resolution on the 27th of June, 1912? A. Yes, they increased their capital by ten thousand shares.

Q. Then, we follow that. A. You have got that perfectly straight up to there, Mr. McRuer, have you?

Q. I think so. Now the capital of the Wabasso from now on would be 17 -- one million, seven hundred and fifty thousand? A. Yes, or 17,500 shares.

Q. I am correct in stating this that up to this point there had been no actual cash paid to the treasury for any of the 17,500 shares?
A. Practically none, a small amount.

Q. Then, my next reference is to the 26th of August, 1926 --

THECOMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer, I think we will have a little recess now.

-- Adjourned at 11.35 a.m. until 11.45 a.m.

-- On resuming.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, Mr.Whitehead, have you been able to figure it out or do you want a little more time? A. No, I think I have got it pretty clear, Mr. McRuer. You see on that originally, you said -- you read off what I got, 800 and something odd shares, you read out from the minute book and I said about 900, and I think you got me at a little less than 900. That was about accurate. That was as accurate as I can get at it at this long distance. When you come to the St. Maurice Valley, where there was 12,500 shares dealt with apparently I got a certificate for 1550 shares and Greenshields got a certificate for 1549 shares. Out of those amounts we took care of Pringle and Craig and a few others that were pretty instrumental in pushing the company.

Q. Your certificate was for 1500? A. Yes, and Greenshields was 1549. As I say out of those certificates he and I took care of Pringle and Craig, and there were some others who had come in and helped us pretty considerably in one way and another with the companyx and we handed some out to them. It was not considered worth an awful lot at that time. W.T. Whitehead, that was my cousin, he got 650 shares. There was between the two deals -- there was about

1251 shares split up into small sundries, stockbrokers and so forth.

Q. Can you do this for me, Mr. Whitehead; in the first deal there were certain shares used for bonus purposes? A. Yes.

Q. Give me a statement showing how many shares were used for bonus purposes and how many shares were divided among others. A. Yes.

Q. I am not saying you had any more than any other person. A. You take me down, Capel, on a piece of paper. There was two thousand went with the bonus--

Q. I will make it clear what I want.

A. You want me to account for five thousand, don't you?

Q. On the first deal we have five thousand shares to account for altogether. A. Yes; well now, as I say out of that five thousand there were 130 were paid for, you see. That is 4870 you have really got to take care of.

Q. Yes. A. 4870; out of that went 266 I have located that went to small sundries.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. To whom?

A. Small sundries; we gave a few here and a few there for different things, services that they rendered to us, and about 900, somewhere in the vicinity of 900 went to myself, Greenshields and Craig. That was 2700 plus 266. How much does that total up to, Mr. Capel?

MR. CAPEL: 2966.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. You mean 900 each?
A. Yes.

MR. CAPEL: That is 3000 shares.

THE WITNESS: I think I got pretty close to it. I have got a little over.

MR. CAPEL: You have got 3096.

THE WITNESS: I didn't quite have 900. The chances are probably the others didn't have quite 900. I was pretty close when I struck it at 900. If you take 900 you get a little over, as a matter of fact.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. We can summarize it in this way that 2,000 shares went out as bonus on the bonds?
A. Yes.

Q. And approximately 2,700 shares were divided between three of you? A. Yes, about 2,700, yes. I came pretty close.

Q. A little less than 2,700 between the three of you. Then 130 shares were paid for in cash?
A. Yes.

Q. And 266 shares divided to sundry people?
A. Yes, that I have got track of, making roughly 5,000 shares.

Q. Now then, we move on to the St. Maurice.
A. We move on to the St. Maurice.

Q. Yes. A. 12,500.

Q. 12,500 to be accounted for in the St. Maurice deal. A. Now, 7,500 went straight as a bonus with the bonds. 1550 was issued to me.

Q. Yes. A. 1549 was issued to Greenshields.

Now, out of the 1550 and 1549 we took care of Pringle, who was our engineer and designed our mills and we took care of Craig.

Q. Would Pringle not get any pay as an engineer in designing the mills? A. Yes, he got certain pay but he did a lot beyond that. Then, W. T. Whitehead got 650 shares and there was nine -- nearly eleven hundred split up. Is that about right, Capel?

MR. CAPEL: Yes.

THE WITNESS: As far as I can make out, a little more than that --

MR. CAPEL: You have got too much now.

THE WITNESS: It is because there was not quite so much split up, then.

BY MR.McRUER: Q. Probably we can say the balance went to sundry people? ~~A. At 108.~~ A. Yes, take that out from the total and that will give you the balance in a minute.

MR. CAPEL: That is about right. You were right the first time.

THE WITNESS: I am not far out, on the amount. There was Greenshields, myself and W.T. Whitehead, and as I say, Mr. McRuer, at this point, while the engineer got his commission he did not get any of this except what I gave him as a personal friend.

Q. Came out of your allotment, you could do what you liked with it when you had it, of course? A. Yes.

Q. Then, we can summarize then, Mr. Whitehead, of

the 12,500 shares that we have just dealt with that were issued for the St. Maurice Company stock 7,500 shares were given away as bonuses to purchasers of St. Maurice bonds? A. Yes.

Q. 1,500shares were issued to you? A. Yes.

Q. 1,549 shares to Mr. Greenshields and the balance went to sundry people who had something to do with the selling of the bonds and so forth?
A. Yes.

Q. What you did with yours afterwards is another affair? A. Is another affair.

Q. And is neither here nor there. Now, the St. Maurice bonds were sold at par, were they?
A. They were sold, as I remember, mighty close to it. There was no commission anyway, at all.

Q. They are included in the bond issue you have just called at 110? A. At 105.

Q. They are called at 105, I see, they have just been called at 105? A. Yes.

Q. They have paid interest on the bonds at 6%?
A. Yes.

Q. Since they were issued in 1912? A. Yes, they were 6% bonds. The bonds must have all been sold at par because I sold them myself and anything we got in the way of commission went through that common stock.

(page 1210 follows)

Q. As I said before, that leaves us now with the capitalization of the Wabasso Company at $1,750,000? A. Yes.

Q. Of 17,500 shares? A. Yes.

Q. Now, we come to the 26th August, 1920. Just a moment, don't we have a deal with the Shawinigan before the ~~20th~~ 1920 deal? A. What is the 1920 split?

Q. The split? A. No, that is the next in order, Mr. McRuer, the split. What you really get there is 17,500 shares, which went as a bonus, less the 130 shares paid for in cash.

Q. 17500 which went as a bonus, one way or another, except 130 shares which were paid for in cash? A. Yes.

Q. Had that 130 shares anything to do with the $13,000 that you had? A. They put the $13,000 in and bought the land.

Q. I don't quite understand that transaction, Mr. Whitehead. The land was assigned and thereis no agreement? A. In order to buy the land we had to put the money in there. We originally had to buy the land, had we not?

Q. You mean the land of the Wabasso Cotton Company? A. We put it in, didn't we?

BY THE COMMISSIONER: That is, you and Mr. Greenshields and Mr. Craig? A. Yes, we put the money in there.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Oh yes, I see what you mean. You actually bought 130 shares? A. We put the money in there.

Q. For $13,000? A. Yes.

Q. And that money was used to buy the land? A. Yes.

Q. All right, that is clear enough; you bought 130 shares for $13,000, and the Company used the cash you gave them to buy the land? A. Yes.

Q. Well then, we come to the 26th August, 1920? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, this is at page 45 of the Minute Book: "Minutes of a special general meeting of the shareholders of the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited, held at the office of the Company, Three Rivers, P.Q. on Thurdday, August 26th, 1920."

The following representing the large shareholders present:

W.G.E. Aird,	383 shares,
R.N. Ball,	500 shares,
Wm. I. Gear,	200 shares,
Wm. Harty, Jr.	217 shares,
C.J. Hodgson,	1651 shares,
Hugh McKay, K.C.	101 shares,
James W. Pyke,	625 shares,
Alex. Pringle,	400 shares,
C.R. Whitehead,	2083 shares.

And there were 9,743 shares represented by proxy. Mr. Hodgson seems to havebecome a large shareholder in the meantime? A. Well, he is a broker; he may have it to-day and not tomorrow; that comes and goes.

Q. Well then, at page 50 the following appears: "Now therefore it is hereby resolved.

That the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby authorized to apply for supplementary letters patent amending and varying the provisions

of the Letters Patent incorporating the Company and the Letters Patent supplementary thereto relative to its capital stock, providing for the issue of shares of the capital stock of the Company without any nominal or par value, changing the capitalization of the Company from seventeen thousand five hundred (17,500) fully paid shares of common stock of the par value of one hundred ($100.) each to thirty-five thousand (35,000) fully paid Common Shares without nominal or par value, and changing the provisions relative to the Company's capital stock as the same appear in the Letters Patent incorporating the Company and at present reading,-

"The Capital Stock of the said Company shall be seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars divided into seven thousand five hundred shares of one hundred dollars each subject to the increase of such capital stock under the provisions of the said Act."

and as subsequently increased by Supplementary Letters Patent dated the 12th day of June, 1912, to the sum of one million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($1,750,000.00), being an addition of one million dollars ($1,000,000.00) to the capital stock of the Company as originally authorized under the terms of the Company's charter, such increase in capital stock being

divided into ten thousand (10,000) shares of one hundred dollars ($100) each, to read,

'The capital stock of the said Company shall be thirty-five thousand Common Shares without nominal or par value, subject to the increase of such capital stock under the provisions of the said Act and Amending Acts.'"

And then for every one shares of capital stock of the Company of a par value of $100.00 each, two fully-paid shares of no par value were issued? A. Yes. The balance is really a recital up to that, is it not?

Q. Yes. Then this is in 1920, and in 1921 you paid a dividend of $4.00 a share on the 35,000 shares; that is correct, is it not? A. That is correct, I think, as far as I know. I think, Mr. Capel, you filed a record of dividends?

MR. CAPEL: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: $4.00 a share.

THE WITNESS: May I say something here; there is one thing I would like to say at this point: I think from the inception of the Company, in 1907, 1907 to 1917, inclusive, you will remark we paid no dividend at all. During that time we plowed money back into the Company. The thing was not worth a cent until we made itworth something.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I would say it was pretty good plowing? A. Yes, it was good plowing but it was very hard plowing. Then from that point forward you have the dividend record, which I think went up to the

last dividend in 1928, and then from there on there were no dividends.

Q. Just let us get what actually happened, of the 35,000 shares that were outstandingthen after the split in 1920, there were only 260 shares that had been paid for in cash? A. Yes.

Q. So that we have 34,740 shares that had been bonus shares? A. Yes.

Q. And when you declared the dividend in 1920 there was paid out on these bonus shares $138,960? A. Yes.

Q. On shares that had grown, so to speak? A. You might say of ten years' growth.

Q. Of ten years' growth, yes; and then in 1922 a similar amount was paid out? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1923 the same? A. Yes.

Q. So that for those three years on shares that had been given away for a bonus, I make it there were $405,880 paid in dividends? A. Yes.

Q. That is bringing it down to the year 1924? A. Yes.

Q. Then 1924, we have some money introduced into the Company by the sale of shares? A. Yes.

Q. Or sale of rights, initial stock? A. Yes.

Q. Now, will you turn up, if you please, the meeting of the 24th of February -- I beg your pardon, I should carry that on a bit longer; I thought it was 1924. There was a change made in the capitalization, but that

was not until 1927, I think I am right? A. Yes.

Q. I should make that from 1921 to 1926, inclusive.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be five years.

MR. McRUER: It will be six years, my lord, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926.

THE COMMISSIONER: Both inclusive?

MR. McRUER: Both inclusive, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. That is, there would be $811,760 paid out in dividends on what had been strictly bonus stock? A. That is so.

Q. Then we come to a change in the capitalization. This appears at page 287 of this Minute Book, under date of the 24th February, 1927:

"By-Law No. 29.

"I t was moved by Mr. Pyke, seconded by Mr. MacKay, K.C., and unanimously resolved:

That subject to the issue of supplementary Letters Patent by the Honourable the Secretary of State of Canada, confirming By-law No. 29 of the Company, providing for the increase of its authorized capital stock, 17,500 shares of the new stock of the Company without nominal or par value created by the said B7-law, be issued forthwith and offered to the holders of the outstanding shares of the Company at the price of $60. per share on the basis of one share of new stock for every two shares of the outstanding stock of

record at the close of business on the 15th day of March, 1927; that the terms and conditions of payment for such new stock, the issue of warrants to subscribe and of certificates of subscription, and all the other terms and conditions relating to the issue and offer of the said new stock be as set forth in the draft circular letter addressed by the Company to its Shareholders now submitted to the meeting and reading as follows:

THE WABASSO COTTON COMPANY, LIMITED,
THREE RIVERS, P.Q.

March - 1927.

Dear Sir or Madam:

By-law No. 29 increasing the authorized capital stock of the Company, which was approved by the Shareholdersat the Special General Meeting of Shareholders held on February 24th, last, has been confirmed by Supplementary Letters Patent. Acting under the authority conferred upon them thereby, your Directors have decided to issue forthwith 17,500 shares of new stock of the Company without nominal or par value, and to offer such new stock to the holders of the outstanding shares of the Company at the price of $60. per share, on the basis of one share of new stock for every two shares of the outstanding stock of record at the close of business on the 15th day of March, 1927.

"The subscription price of the new stock will be payable at the office of Quebec Savings and TrustCompany, 120 St. James St. Montreal, Canada, or at the Office of the Bank of Montreal, 47 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C. 2. England, as follows:-

$10. pe5 share upon subscription on or before May 2nd. 1927.

$10. per share on or before June 1st, 1927.

$10. " " " " " July 4th, 1927.

$10. " " " " " August 1st, 1927.

$10. " " " " " Sept. 1st, 1927.

$10. " " " " " Oct. 1st, 1927.

"Payments in Montreal must be made by draft or accepted cheque payable to the order of Quebec Savings and Trust Company, in funds current. Payments in London must be made in Canadian Dollars by draft payable to the Bank of Montreal.

From and after May 2nd, 1927. all instalment payments will bear interest".....

I do not think these details are necessary to be gone into. Then how much, or was the whole issue of 17,500 shares taken up? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. It was all taken up in that way?

MR. McRUER: It was all taken up in that way, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then on the 12th of January,

1928, this is the Minutes of Meeting of Directors, of the Wąbasso Cotton Company Limited, on the 12th January, 1928, at page 45 of this Minute Book, and under the heading of "New stock";

"NEW STOCK. Mr. Whitehead stated that he wished to bring before the Meeting the advisability of issuing at this time a further 17,500 shares of stock from those in the Treasury."

So the capital was increased? A. 105,000 authorized, were there not?

Q. And on the 24th February, 1927, the capitalization was raised from 35,000 to 105,000 no par value? A. No par value, yes.

Q. And of the 105,000, 17,500 were issued at $60.00 a share? A. Yes, that is right.

Q. That would leave 52,500 still in the treasury? A. Yes.

Q. Then we come to this Minute Providing for the issue of a further 17,500 shares of stock from those in the Treasury:

"This issue to be made to shareholders on a basis of one share of new for every three shares presently held, price to be $80 per share. Mr. Whitehead went over very carefully the position of the Company and also his reasons for wishing to issue the stock at this time and left the matter for discussion by the Board.

After careful consideration and discussion

it was moved by Mr. Harty, Jr. seconded by Col. Gear and unanimously carried THAT 17,500 shares of the presently unissued common capital stock of the Company without nominal or par value be issued forthwith and be offered to the holders of the outstanding shares of the Company at the price of $80. per share on the basis of one share of new stock for every three shares of the outstanding stock of record at the close of business on the 1st day of February, 1928; that the terms and conditions of payment for such new stock, the issue of warrants to subscribe and of certificates of subscription, and all other terms and conditions relating to the issue and offer of the said new stock be as set forth in the draft circular letter addressed by the Company to its Shareholders, now submitted to the meeting and reading as follows:"

I do not think I need read that letter. It provides for payment on the instalment plan, and so on.
So that at that time another 17,500 shares were issued?
A. That is right, yes., and there were a few not taken.
How many were taken up, Mr. Capel?

MR. CAPEL: 17,404 were taken up, leaving a balance of 97.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. So that they were all taken up with the exception of 97 shares? A. Yes.

Q. Now, there have been no other changes in the

capital structure of the Company? A. That is as it stands to-day.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. I understand there have been no dividends paid since that date? A. Not since that date. The last dividend was 1928.

THE COMMISSIONER: September, 1928.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I have it here. In 1928 there was a dividende of $4.00 a share, and $1.50 bonus, and in 1929 there was a dividend which would be at $1.00 a share? A. Yes, that would be one-quarter.

Q. Yes, $1.00 a share. A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is the last? A. That is the last, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, will you turn up the Minute of the 5th of September, 1916, is that in the Shawinigan?

MR. CAPEL: I do not know to what you are referring.

MR. McRUER: It is the purchase of the Shawinigan stock. Have you got the Shawinigan Minute Book, organization meeting of the Shawinigan?

MR. CAPEL: Yes.

MR. McRUER: That is November 6th, 1909?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I want to deal, Mr.Whitehead, with the Shawinigan Company Limited? A. Yes.

Q. That was apparently organized in 1909? A. Yes.

Q. That would be within two years after you had organized the Wabasso Cotton Company? A. Yes.

Q. The Shawinigan site is located at Shawinigan Falls? A. Shawinigan Falls, yes.

Q. Now, the capitalization of the Shawinigan Company was how much at its inception?

MR. CAPEL: $1,000,000 is the authorized.

THE WITNESS: That would be $100.00 per par value share; that would be 10,000 shares.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Of $100.00 each? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I notice at page 8 of the Minute Book of the Shawinigan under date of the 6th of November, 1909, the Minutes of the first meeting of the Provisional Directors of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited, and I am reading a quotation from the Minutes, page 6:

> "The Chairman then explained that this Company had been organized with the intention and for the purpose of the manufacture of cotton and knitted goods, and that in order to the successful operation of a Cotton Company cheap and continuous power was essential.
>
> "He further stated to the Meeting that one Charles R. Whitehead had obtained a contract with the Shawinigan Water & Power Company for the supply of electrical power for the running of a cotton factory at Shawinigan Falls, the said contract being for twenty-five years, and renewable for twenty-five years more making in all some

some fifty years, and that the price per horse power for twenty-four hour power was Ten Dollars per horse power.

It was further explained that this price was the cheapest price by far under which any cotton company operating, probably, in Canada were obtaining power and that it would be of immense advantage to this Company if they could obtain the transfer of said contract.

The Chairman further explained th t the said Whitehead was willing to transfer and assign all his rights under said contract, and also to transfer a site of land situated at Shawinigan Falls and lying contiguous to the line of railway of the C.P.R. and Canadian Northern, the whole for the sum of Seven hundred and fifty-three Thousand Dollars ($753,000).

The Chairman laid before the Meeting a copy of the said power Contract and map, or plan, showing the location of the land.

The said contract for power having been taken communication of it was deemed by its terms to be of great value to this Company.

The Chairman further explained that the said C.R.Whitehead was prepared to take payment of said Seven Hundred and Fifty-three Thousand Dollars (($753,000.00), the whole of it, in paid up stock, or any portion in paid up stock of this Company. and the balance in cash.

After full discussion of the matter the offer of the said Whitehad was accepted; this Company to issue in payment of said land and power rights seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($750,000.00) of their common stock, as fully paid and non-assessable, and to pay to the said Whitehead Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00) in cash.

It was Moved by Mr. Gadbois and seconded by Mr. O. Gagnon that the Provisional President and Provisional Secretary of this Company be and are hereby authorized in the name of the Company to acquire the rights of the said Whitehead in and to said contract existing between himself and the Shawinigan Water & Power Company of date the 18th day of October, 1909, and all ~~fm~~ of the rights of him said Whitehead in and to the hereinafter described land, viz.,

'A certain tract of land situated at Shawinigan Falls, in the Province of Quebec, known as subdivision Number Fourteen Hundred and Eighty of the Official Lot Number Six Hundred and Twenty-Eight (628 - 1480) on the Official Plan and Book of Reference of the Parish of St. Flore, in the County of St.Maurice, Province of Quebec; as shown marked Green on the plan made by Joseph Rielle P.L.S. dated the Fifteenth of November, Nineteen Hundred and Nine a copy of which signed for identification by the parties hereto and the undersigned Notary is hereto annexed; as the said

property now subsists with all its rights, members and appurtenances without exception for reserve of any kind on the part of the Vendor."

with immediate possession; the whole for and in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred and Fifty-three thousand dollars ($753,000.00) payable, as follows: Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars ($750,000) by the issue to the vendor, or his nominees of Seventy-five hundred (7500) shares of the Common Stock of this Company, fully paid up, and as to Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00), the same to be paid in cash.

A letter was produced and fyled with the Secretary from the said C.R. Whitehead offering the property and power contract upon the terms of the foregoing resolution and directing that part of the purchase price, viz., the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000.00) be applied in payment of the shares already subscribed for and deducted from the part of the purchase price payable in and by the Common Stock of this Company.

The Provisional Officers were instructed to issue the common shares in accordance with the foregoing letter of instructions.

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Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, when you decided to start the plant at Shawinigan Falls, you apparently went and got the contract with the Power Company there in October. The date is the 18th of October, 1909?
A. Yes.

Q. And you acquired a piece of land? A. Yes.

Q. How much did you pay for the land? A. I cannot tell you from memory.

Q. Would not the $3,000 that was paid to you in cash cover the price of the land? A. Yes. I don't remember, but I would think that was the answer.

Q. Yes, it would look to be about the price that it might be? A. Yes.

Q. And then for this you acquired the common stock of the company amounting to $750,000? A. Yes.

Q. Now, when you proceeded to erect the building there you had a bond issue? A. A bond issue, yes.

Q. How much was the bond issue? A. Two million and a half dollars.

Q. $2,500,000? A. And we issued about $1,166,000.

Q. $1,166,000? A. Yes.

Q. Those were six per cent. first mortgage bonds?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you give shares as a bonus? A. Yes, there was a bonus there too.

Q. How many of the common shares were given away as a bonus for the Shawinigan bonds, or with the

Shawinigan bonds? A. I am afraid I cannot answer because I really do not remember that,,but I know there was a considerable bonus. Anyway, the stock was all bonus stock one way or the other.

Q. Yes. I was wondering how much was ultimately left in your hands? A. I am inclined to think there is nothing there to tell you in the Minute Book.

Q. Nothing in the Minute Book to tell us? A. I cannot exactly remember what was given.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think this is a good time to adjourn, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: Very well, my lord.

-- The Commission adjourned at 12.30 P.M. to resume at 2. P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Three Rivers, P.Que.,
30th March, 1936.

-- On resuming at 2 o'clock p.m.

C.R. WHITEHEAD,

(Examination continued by Mr. McRuer).

Q. Then, that minute book of the Shawinigan Company, please, that we were dealing with, the 6th of November, 1909. Just a question or two while I am waiting for the minute book, Mr. Whitehead. Were you able to find out in the interval for me how much of the stock that was issued in the Shawinigan Company, that is, the $750,000 capitalization, was given away as bonus with the bonds? A. Yes, 25%.

Q. 25%. A. That will be 25% of one million, one hundred and sixty-six, Mr. Capel. You can figure it out what that comes to.

Q. There was 25% that would be the bonus on the bonds? A. On the bonds, yes.

Q. So that for ever $100 in bonds there was $25 in par value stock? A. Capital stock, which would come to about --

THE COMMISSIONER: $187,000.

THE WITNESS: About two thousand -- how many shares Mr. Capel?

MR. CAPEL: 2915.

THE WITNESS: Yes, that is about right.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. 2915 shares --

A. Would be given away as the bonus with bonds, do you see?

Q. That left -- A. That is, with each bond they bought they got some common stock. That would leave 7085 to take care of, wouldn't it, from 10,000. The total capital was 10,000 shares; that would leave you 7085.

Q. Yes, I see, but just a moment; we are getting on too fast, I am afraid. There was 7500 shares transferred under the agreement under which you assigned the land, and the Wabasso rights?

A. Yes -- 7500 transferred to who?

Q. To you. A. To me, yes.

Q. Well, how did you get that 2500 -- the other 2500 out of the treasury in order to give it away as bonus stock? A. That I am not quite clear on.

MR. CAPEL: The 19th of January, 1910.

THE WITNESS: I have noted pretty well where it went ultimately, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: My attention is attracted to a minute of the 19th of January, 1910.

THE COMMISSIONER: 1919?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord, 1910, the 19th of January and it reads as follows:

"The President stated to the meeting that Mr. C.R.Whitehead was the owner of the entire stock entire capital stock of the Oxford Knitting Company, a Company operating a knitting factory

"at Woodstock, in the Province of Ontario; that this factory was new in construction and design and equipped with the latest and most modern type of machinery; that the said Oxford Knitting Company, at the present time, had more orders on hand for its goods than it could fill and had been operated for two or three years very successfully, with a constantly increasing business and a corresponding increase in its profits; that the total issued capital stock of the Company was fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) and that the said C.R. Whitehead was prepared to sell the said stock for the sum of three hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars ($365,000.00); that he would accept in payment of the said amount one hundred and sixteen thousand dollars ($116,000.00) in the bonds of this company, at par, and two hundred and forty-nine thousand dollars ($249,000.00) in fully paid and non-assessable stock of the company.

The Chairman further explained to the meeting that, after the acquisition of said by C. R.Whitehead, he had made an arrangement, on behalf of the Company, to engage the services of Mr. Harvey, the General Manager of the Oxford Knitting Company, who, after all enquiries made, was considered the best knitter in Canada and a most careful and economical mill manager; that he had further arranged with the said Whitehead to use the said mill, for some time past,

"in preparing the samples for this company's goods tobe produced and manufactured after the completion of their mill, thus enabling this company to get its samples on the market and sell goods for delivery next Fall; these goods to be manufactured in part at Shawinigan and should this Company acquire the Oxford Knitting Mills to be manufactured, also in part, at Woodstock.

It was further explained that by the purchase and acquisition of the said mill, as a going concern, and the manufacture of this company's samples, at the present time, in the said mill that this company would practically gain a year's time in getting on the market with their goods.

The President declared that he considered, from the business standpoint, it was of the greatest importance to acquire this property, as it immediately put this company, as a going concern, in the market and that Mr. Harvey would remain as the manager of the Woodstock branch, and also, the general manager of this company's knitting department, in its factory, at Shawinigan as well as at Woodstock.

The Chairman further stated that the outlook for profits, for the year ending in April next, of the Oxford Knitting Company, would be almost sufficient, if not entirely so, to carry and pay this company's bond interest on the greater portion of its present issue during the

"period of construction.

The President further explained to the meeting that, in his opinion, the policy of the company should be to acquire these shares and so soon as the same have been acquired, being the entire capital stock, that the company should be dissolved and that a supplementary mortgage deed be executed securing the bond issue of this company on the property, mills and plant of the Oxford Knitting Company, which would then be deeded over to this company and would be run as the Woodstock branch of this company.

The President further stated to the meeting that there was a mortgage on the real estate of the Oxford Knitting Company of fifteen thousand dollars payable one thousand dollars per annum, which would have to be assumed by this company, in the event of a deed of transfer being made.

After full consideration and discussion by the Board it was unanimously resolved that the president and secretary be, and are hereby authorized, to enter into a deed of agreement and transfer by which they shall acquire, from the said C. R. Whitehead, five hundred fully paid and non-assessable shares of the Oxford Knitting Company, and this company agree and undertake and the president and secretary are authorized to deliver to the said C.R. Whitehead one hundred and sixteen thousand dollars of the first mortage bonds of this company, and

"to issue and allot to the said C.R.Whitehead, for the balance of the said purchase price, two hundred and forty-nine thousand dollars of the common stock of this company, fully paid and non-assessable.

The president further stated to the meeting that Deakin, the contractor for the company's mills at Shawinigan, undertook to deliver a portion of the ground floor of the mill completed by the 15th of June, which would enable the installation of the knitting machinery, and the entire mill completed by the 1st of August, and that if these undertakings were carried out, which he had no reason to doubt, the company would be in a position to manufacture their goods to make deliveries in September of the goods presently sold on the samples manufactured at the mills of the Oxford Knitting Company."

Then, was that carried out, Mr. Whitehead?

A. Yes. I think I would like -- I better sketch the history as I remember it, my lord. I don't know if I remember it all in detail but I can give you a sufficient sketch to show you the picture. When we decided not to build the original Wabasso mill at Shawinigan Mr. Aldred, the president of the Shawinigan Water and Power, was very disappointed because he wanted the mill located at Shawinigan.

Shortly after we got Wabasso going we found he was thinking of starting another mill at Shawinigan. We, at that time, had built the Wabasso to make goods

that were not produced in this country so as to bring further production to this country, you might say, and Aldred conceived the idea he would build exactly the same kind of mill, so I said, "well, here we must stop this; this will never do." So I got active in the matter. That is where I came into it. I went to Aldred and talked it over and arranged the power contract and so forth and we decided we would go into the knitting business such as we had in the Montmorency mill for years, where I had been --

Q. When you say "we" whom is that?

A. The Shawinigan Cotton Company. Down at Montmorency I had been interested in making yarns for knitting so I said "there has always been a very good market for yarns, we will go into the yarn business and make this a yarn mill and we will also engage in the knitting business." We looked the mill over carefully --

Q. At this time were yarns imported free?

A. Fine yarns were, not coarser yarns.

Q. There was a duty on the coarser yarns in 1906? A. Yes.

Q. Alright. A. We looked around to find what we thought was the best knitter and we found this man, Harvey. He was thought very highly of in the trade, a very fine line of goods on the market and we conceived the idea of engaging Mr. Harvey to run the knitting business for us, and to buy his mill. We eventually bought his mill and it cost us,

as you say, we paid $116,000 in bonds and $249,000 in common stock, which was transferred to me, and I paid it over, and we acquired the Oxford Mills. There was nothing stuck by the road anywhere in that transfer.

Q. $116,000 in bonds that are stated to go to you in the minutes? A. Yes.

Q. You say were transferred to Mr. Harvey?
A. To the shareholders generally.

Q. Of the Oxford Knitting Company?
A. Yes, that was the price they got for their mill.

Q. And the $249,000 in stock? A. Yes.

Q. Was all distributed to the shareholders?
A. That was distributed.

Q. Of the Oxford Knitting Company?
A. Yes, as far as I know. I paid it across.

Q. You didn't get any of it? A. No.

Q. Or any of your associates? A. Or any of our associates.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You only appeared there nominally? A. I only appeared nominally as the transactor, the go-between, you might say. In that way we acquired Mr. Harvey.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well, up to this time I have got track of $999,000 worth of stock in the Shawinigan Company. I have got $250,000 or 7500 shares that were issued to you? A. Yes.

Q. Originally? A. Yes.

Q. And 249 -- 2490? A. 2490.

Q. They were issued for the Oxford Knitting

Company. A. How many does that make?

Q. That brings it up -- then 10 shares -- I suppose those were the incorporating directors' shares? A. Yes, that brings it ~~xx~~ pretty closely back to the 10.

Q. Yes, that is practically the 10 shares, alright. Then, you acquired the Oxford Knitting Company and what happened then in regard to the operations of the company? A. Well, they were not as successful as we hoped.

Q. Was the Oxford Knitting Company a going concern when you acquired it? A. It was a going, quite prosperous concern, supposed to be one of the best mills in the country and Harvey is supposed to be one of the best knitters in the country and we got him and got his mill. Then, that was for ladies' goods and we also had the Shawinigan now into the knitting business, the Shawinigan Knitting Company, which we established there to make men's goods.

Q. Was the Shawinigan Knitting Company a separate corporate entity? A. Yes, that was a separate charter.

Q. When did you incorporate it? A. About the time we started the cotton mill. I don't remember the exact date.

Q. Was it operated in the same building as the Shawinigan Cotton Company? A. Yes.

Q. You didn't have a separate plant?

A. No, it was in the same building. In other words,

we rented part of the building to the knitting company.

Q. Was the stock all owned by the Shawinigan Knitting Company? A. I think the stock was all owned by them. There was nothing sold outside at all. It was part of the same building. The upstairs was used for the knitting mill.

Now, we have never had it explained to this day why, having obtained what we thought was the best knitter in the country and got two good knitting mills, why we could not make a success of it. There were several things entered into it. One was that a man may be a splendid man up to a certain point but if you load him with too much he will go down. Harvey did not make a success of it. Another very serious point was that when we came to bleach our goods with the water of the St. Maurice River, which is full of iron, we found ~~p~~ we thought they were beautiful until we put them alongside our competitors and then we found they were sort of a dull colour. We could not get that colour out and we could not carry water there to change it.

Q. Did you close up the plant? A. No, we had to change then; we had to swing off cotton goods on to a sort of woollen mixture, which changed the programme quite considerably. As time went by, instead of making money as we thought in our knitting mills we could not make them pay. The Oxford Knitting Company as stated there -- we were in full faith when we made the statments we made about it, but we could not make it pay. We tried and tried

and could not make it pay. Finally we went to the J.R.Moody Company of Hamilton, who were big knitters, and who had been purchasers of yarn from us. They were purchasers from the Shawinigan Cotton Company and had been purchasers from the Montmorency many years before and I knew them very well. We leased the knitting mill to them. We said "Here, we evidently have taken over a business we don't understand." So we leased it to a knitter. He made a three year lease with an option for a renewal for a furthet three years and the option of buying it, and each year as he wore out the machinery he paid a little less for it. He went there the first three years. I think we started somewhere around 1915 and he ran it for three years and then he used his option and he ran it for a further three years. Then at the end of that period he says "I am using my option and taking the machinery; this is no place to run a knitting mill", and he moved it to Hamilton, Ontario, moved the machinery, and we got $45,000, as I recollect, for that machinery. It depreciated every year and there was so much taken off on the lease each year for that.

Then, we were faced with a two hundred thousand dollar loss that we had made during the time we had operated that mill and we decided -- you will find a minute somewhere, I am sure, in the books, saying that we were to write that off at the rate of $50,000 a year. It was a complete loss and the best thing was to wipe it off. I think we started to wipe it

off -- I think there was one year in which we skipped, but took it up again, so it is in some four years around 1920 that we wiped off the $200,000 and that was the end of the Shawinigan Knitting Company, cancelled it.

Now, we operated the Oxford a good deal longer than that. We made up our mind we would sell it too if we could, and we attempted several times to sell it. We finally -- I don't recollect the year exactly -- we sold it to the Mercury Knitting Mills of Hamilton. I don't remember what year that was in. We made a loss altogether on that mill of about $380,000.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. On the Woodstock mill? A. On the Woodstock mill, and we sold it to the Mercury Mills and after we got the sale price and everything our loss on that mill for that period of time -- we were about $380,000 in the hole, so we were then out of the knitting business completely, and from that time we confined ourselves to making our yarns.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Was this knitting business you were carrying on both cotton and woollen? A. It was supposed to be cotton when we started, Mr. McRuer. Then, when we came across this trouble with the iron in the water and could not get our cotton white, then we commenced to mix the wool mixtures with it, but still kept the men's goods, but we got on to a different line of stuff, a different line of product. That was in May, 1928, that it was sold t

the Mercury Mills.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What year?
A. 1928, my lord, we sold to the Mercury Mills.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I want to clear up one other point before I proceed with the development of this company. I want to find out, if I can, how much of the 7500 shares in the Shawinigan Company were used to take care these bond holders; was that the 2915? A. That was the 29--

Q. 2915? A. Yes.

Q. So that 2490 went to the Oxford Mill?
A. Yes.

Q. And 2915? A. 2915 and 2490.

Q. 2490, and I think we may take it that ten shares would be incorporator shares?
A. That would be like 5415, wouldn't it? From 10,000 that is 4585.

Q. 4585 then would be still with you and your associates? A. Yes.

Q. Now, you entered into an arrangement to sell these to the Wabasso Cotton Company, didn't you?
A. Yes, I don't remember exactly what date we decided to buy those shares.

Q. The minute appears to be the 15th of September, 1916? A. Yes, we started to buy up some.

Q. You evidently -- A. I don't remember how many we bought at that time.

Q. I will read the minute and it will probably refresh your memory in regard to the whole transaction?
A. Yes.

Q. You can explain it to me later on. This is a meeting of the directors of the Wabasso Cotton Company on the 15th of September, 1916, at page 73 of this minute book.

"The Chairman explained to the meeting that in June Mr. Alex Pringle of T. Pringle & Son, Montreal had been notified by his Toronto Engineering office, that the Chipman-Holton Company of Hamilton contemplated building a spinning mill in connection with their large knitting plant and requesting that he should visit Hamilton and try and obtain the building of said mill for his firm. Mr. Pringle had spoken toMr. Whitehead about this matter and said that he was going to see the Chipman-Holton Company. Mr. Pringle went to Hamilton and met Mr. Holton of the Chipman-Holton Company and was informed that they did contemplate the erection of a spinning mill, but not at this immediate time owing to the high price of materials and shortage of labour to operate a plant if built".

That sounds like good times? A. Yes, evidently.

Q. This was during the War? A. Yes.

Q. "He, however, notifed Mr. Pringle that if at a later date they took steps to build a spinning mill he would let him know.

Mr. Pringle returned to Montreal and consulted Mr. Whitehead and stated that as a shareholder and bondholder of the Shawinigan Cotton Company he thought it would be greatly to the advantage of the Shawinigan Cotton Company if

"instead of allowing or permitting another large spinning mill to be built they could arrange to sell the Shawinigan Cotton Company to the Chipman-Holton Company. Mr. Whitehead agreed with Mr. Pringle in this view, and accordingly Mr. Pringle obtained from a number of shareholders of the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited, an option on their shares of common stock in that company, which they held, at $10.00 per share. Mr. Pringle then entered into negotiations with the Chipman-Holton Company for the sale to them of The Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited. This sale did not come to anything as is shown by the correspondence between Messrs Chipman-Holton and Mr. Pringle now read and laid on the table by the Chairman.

In connection with the option given to Mr. Pringle in June, Messrs Greenshields and Whitehead in handing same to Mr. Alex Pringle wrote him a letter under date of June 19th, 1916 as follows;"

Now, that would be -- Messrs Greenshields and Whitehead would be the holders of thos 4585 shares? A. Well, I don't know. Were there 4585? Does it say that anywhere?

Q. It doesn't say that. A. I don't think we held any such amount as that at that time, but that may develop. My memory is just not as clear.

Q. I think you had something like 76% of the stock at the time this deal was put through, under control? A. There were 7085 shares, to look for somewhere --

Q.This reads:

"With reference"-- this is a letter dated June 19th, 1916 to Alex Pringle, Esq., Montreal,

Dear Sir:

"With reference to the option which we granted to you covering the purchase of our shares in the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited, it is understood and agreed that this option was granted upon the condition that if you exercised same you would personally undertake, or furnish us with satisfactory undertaking from anyone to whom you might sell these shares that the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited, would repay to us not later than January 1st, 1917, certain advances made by us to that Company, and amounting in the aggregate to $114,600.00.

We understand that it is your intention to turn these shares over to Messrs Chipman-Holton Company or to Penman's Limited, and if either of these purchasers write us a letter undertaking to secure the repayment of our advances above mentioned within the delay stated, this will constitute a full and final discharge of any personal obligation on your part with respect to such repayment. We will have to look only to whatever company you may sell your shares. The same would also apply in case you should sell these shares to any other company, provided we approve of such company. Yours truly, J. N. Greenshields, C.R.

"Whitehead."

What do you mean in that letter by the statement that "if either of these purchasers write us a letter undertaking to secure the repayment of our advances above mentioned within the delay stated, this will constitute a full and final discharge of any personal obligation on your part with respect to such repayment." What obligation was there of Pringle to repay the $114,600? A. It was the company that was to repay it according to that wording.

Q. Well, it is addressed to Pringle? A. It says, if either of the above, isn't it, not Pringle, if either of the above, isn't it?

Q. "If either of these purchasers write us a letter agreeing to repay the advances within the delay stated, this will constitute a full and final discharge of any personal obligation on your part with respect to such repayment." Now, you are addressing Pringle? A. In other words, he was only the go-between.

Q. How was there any personal obligation on Pringle to repay the $114,600? A. Well, he was going, evidently, to turn that over, wasn't he, to the other company, the purchasing company and they would pay me for that. In other words, they would clear that holding in this company and he would have to repay that money back to us. Isn't that the way of it?

Q. Had you advanced $114,600 to the Shawinigan Company? A. No, not as I see it.

Q. Let us read this letter again and see if you can recall what the transaction was. This is addressed to Pringle and it says:

"With reference to the option which we granted to you covering the purchase of our shares in the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited"--

A. Now, at that point, we have given them an option, Greenshields and myself, on our shares, an option.

Q."It is understood and agreed that this option was granted upon the condition that if you exercised same you would personally undertake, or furnish us with satisfactory undertaking from anyone to whom you might sell these shares that the Shawinigan Cotton Co. Limited, would repay to us not later than January 1st, 1917, certain advances made by us to that company, and amounting in the aggregate to $114,600.00."

A. We must have been making advances, under that.

Q. I take it from that that you had advanced to the Shawinigan Company $114,600? A. Yes.

Q. In monies, and that you were making it part of this option? A. That that money must be repaid.

Q. If he sold it to any other body there would be an undertaking you would be repaid the $114,600? A. Yes, I have forgotten that transaction entirely, and I don't recall it very clearly, but that would appear from the reading of that that that is the interpretation, but I had forgotten that entirely.

Q. Then we go on in the letter. It goes on to

say:

"We understand that it is your intention to turn these shares over to Messrs Chipman-Holton Company or to Penman's Limited, and if either of these purchasers write us a letter undertaking to secure the repayment of our advances above mentioned within the delay stated this will constitute a full and final discharge of any personal obligation on your part".

A. In other words, he was free.

Q. "With respect to such repayment"--

A. He was free.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. He was free?

A. Yes, it gave him a clearance.

Q. He only took the option in order to deal with this other thing? A. Yes, I had forgotten, my lord, that we had ever advanced that money, but it is evident that we must have advanced that money. We were evidently going to see that that money came back. Pringle was cleared so he had no obligation of any kind.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then we will go on with the minute.

"Mr. Aird, the manager of the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited, learning that negotiations for the sale of The Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited were on foot, and that Mr. Pringle held an option on the majority of the shares of the said The Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited,

"and that negotiations with Chipman-Holton Company had failed, suggested to Mr. Whitehead that it was a good purchase for The Wabasso Cotton Company and would materially strengthen their position."

Now, just let me get what was taking place there. You were the president of the Wabasso Cotton Company? A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Aird was learning that you had given an option to -- A. He learned we were trying to sell the Shawinigan Cotton Company.

Q. He learned you had given an option to Pringle to purchase the shares you held in the Shawinigan? A. He was going to purchase them -- he was going to try and make a sale for us.

Q. Yes, and the sale to the Chipman-Holton Company had fallen down, and then, Mr. Aird suggested to you -- A. Yes.

Q. According to this minute that it would be a good thing for the Wabasso Company to buy your shares? A. Yes, because what he had in mind --

Q. Do you suppose it just happened in that way, this minute from Aird? A. What he had in his mind was this. As manager he sees now that they make coarse yarns at Shawinigan and we make fine yarns here and if we handled the two we will get a much larger and more complete range for the customers, and it would give us a much greater entree to sell the customer yarn if we can give him all his

range rather than just a small part of it, and he suggested that to me and I thought that was a good suggestion.

Q. Had Shawinigan not been selling yarns to Wabasso? A. No, no.

Q. They didn't; you didn't buy any of the coarse yarns for weaving? A. No, not in those days at all.

Q. You were president of both? A. Yes, but different boards of directors, and quite separate companies.

Q. Now, this goes on --

"Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Greenshields conferred on this matter and after careful consideration were also of the opinion that if arrangements could be made by which the purchase could be financed it would be to the advantage of both companies.

Knowing that the Quebec Bank were not disposed to increase the limit of the Wabasso Cotton Company's account Mr. Whitehead approached the Hochelaga Bank who had already expresssed their willingness to take the account of the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited giving them a credit of $400,000.00. Mr. Whitehead interviewed the General Manager who placed the matter before his Board with the result that the Hochelaga Bank stated they were prepared to take the account a further were prepared to advance to the Wabas Cotton Company Limited the money tobuy the common

"stock of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited.

Mr. Pringle was then notifed that the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited would likely be prepared to purchase from him the shares of the Shawinigan Cotton Company common stock which he held under option at the price of $10.00 per share. Mr. Pringle then stated to Mr. Whitehead that he was prepared to sell them these shares, but only under the same conditions as Messrs Greenshields and Whitehead had called for in their letter above referred to of June 19th, 1916 to him.

See Mr. Pringle's letter of September 5th"-- and that is the letter -- no, I haven't -- oh yes, which just follows. Now, before I go on with this letter. We are now in the summer of 1916. When was it that you disposed of the Shawinigan Knitting Company? A. I think that was in -- about 1921, I think. I think it is shown right here. No -- the Oxford Company, when it was sold, but it doesn't show when the Shawinigan Knitting was sold. But Moody had an option on that, as I said, for three years and a renewal for three years. I think it was -- he must have taken that over in 1921.

Q. When was it you concluded that the Oxford venture was a losing one? A. Well, we concluded when we sold the Shawinigan Knitting -- we made up our mind then we would get out of the Oxford if we could but we did not succeed in selling it until May of 1928.

Q. When was it you leased it? A. Well, we bought that, do you remember?

Q. I thought you leased it? A. No, that was the Shawinigan, leased to J. R. Moody with the option to buy and he eventually bought it from us, but we ourselves bought the Oxford Knitting Company earlier and sold it again. We must have bought it about 1909.

Q. You bought it in 1909; that is right?

A. And we sold it in 1928, but we tried for some years to sell it before we found a purchaser.

Q. Well then, we will go on with the purchase of these shares. This is a letter from Mr. Pringle to the Wabasso Cotton Company dated September 5th, 1916.

"With reference to the recent interview with your Messrs C.R. Whitehead and J. N. Greenshields in regard to the purchasing controlling interest of the common stock of the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited which I have under option amounting to between 75 and 76% of a total issue of $1,000.000.00 would say, I hereby agree to sell and transfer to you the total shares of stock which I have under option to-day, for and at the price of $10.00 per share to be paid for in cash as stock certificates are delivered to you or your nominee. In addition to the above, I must ask you to also retire an outstanding indebtedness of the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited, amounting to $114,600.00. This indebtedness to be retired on or before the 1st of January, 1916, all as set forth in letter of June 19th attached

"hereto and signed by Messrs C.R. Whitehead and J. N. Greenshields. It is understood that the retiring of this indebtedness of $114,600.00 will release some $200,000.00 of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited's bonds which were advanced as collateral and it is understood that the said bonds will be permanently retired.

Trusting you will find the proposition as herein set forth quite in accordance with our discussions."

Now, does that reading of that latter bring back to your mind more clearly the transaction in regard to the $114,000? A. Yes. Well, that is that same $114,000, you see, was still to be taken care of, wasn't it? In other words, if the Wabasso bought it they were to take care of that in the same way in which Chipman-Holton or Penmans would have taken care of it had they been the purchasers. In other words, that would have to be taken care of.

Q. When did you hold $200,000 of the Shawinigan Cotton Company's bonds as collateral?

A. I don't ever remember that we did, but it would look as though we did.

Q. It would look as if you did; I wonder if you can help me on what the last line of this letter means -- "it is understood that the said bonds will be permanently retired"? A. They were evidently going to cancel them.

Q. Would release $200,000.00 od bonds that were put up with you as collateral upon you being paid

by Wabasso $114,600? A. Delivered back and to be retired.

Q. Well, the company must have given your bonds --

MR. CAPEL: Was that that small collateral issue they had?

THE WITNESS: Was there a small collateral issue there? That must have been it because they must have issued this as collateral for the advances, for that money. They must have given us some kind of collateral for that.

MR. CAPEL: It might be that small collateral issue that was for collateral purposes only.

MR. McRUER: We may come on something in connection with it later.

"Mr. Whitehead again interviewed the Hochelaga Bank and stated the conditions that Mr. Pringle insisted upon before he would dispose of the shares of the Shawinigan Cotton Company on which he had an option. After due consideration the Board of the Hochelaga Bank decided that they would advance the further sum of money necessary to meet the amounts above referred to making a total of $600,000.00.

The Chairman explained to the Board that by the purchase of the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited the position of the Wabasso Cotton Company, Limited, would be considerably strengthened. The Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited when running to full capacity was able to make

"a profitable showing and it was only through lack of orders that the company had got into an unfavourable position."

Now, if I might just pause there for a minute. Was it a fact that at the time that this transaction was put through that the Shawinigan Cotton Company was in an unfavourable position? A. Well, you will have to look at the statements.

Q. I have the statements; we will come to them. A. Offhand I could not tell you.

Q. I would judge from these statements they were in an unfavourable position? A. The history of the Shawinigan all through had been a fluctuating one and those statements there -- when the yarn business was good we were alright and when the yarn business was poor we did not make any money.

Q. On the transaction that was being put through here you were getting repaid the $114,600 you had advanced to the Shawinigan as against their bonds as collateral, and you were getting $10.00 a share for the stock that you had received as a bonus? A. That is quite true.

Q. Notwithstanding their unfavourable position? A. We were endeavouring to get the $114,000 back.

Q. I am not quarreling with that, but I am just -- A. We were willing to sell that plant to any man we could get who would pay us a reasonable figure for it. In other words, we felt we better get rid of it, and we sold it for $10.00 a share.

Now, in that you are going on the assumption, more or less, you see, that Greenshields and I held 76% of the stock, but you will see from the figures it could not have been more than 70%, with your own figures here. 7,085 shares is all we are looking for because 2915 were given tox the bond holders, wasn't it, and then from that you have got to take 2,490 more that were given to the Oxford Knitting Company so you have got -- there is only 4,590 shares that Greenshields and I could have had,had we had every share that was floating around, which we didn't have. So that Pringle in getting 76% of the company must have canvassed quite a few of the parties who got their stock as a 25% bonus when they purchased . You follow that, Mr. McRuer?

Q. I follow that perfectly, but all I am saying is whatever amount did remain in your hands you were getting $10 a share for it? A. Yes.

Q. You had received it as bonus?
A. Yes, that I am not disputing.

Q. And you had -- you and Mr. Greenshields and your associates had control of the Wabasso Company at that time? A. No, we have never had control of it; we have been large shareholders in it, but we have never had control of it. We act as a board of directors, but we have never at any time in our lives had control of it, not a controlling interest.

Q. Not a controlling interest in it?
A. No, sir, no, never.

Q. The group? A. No.

Q. Well, these directors met, anyway. These directors met. A. The stock was held all over the country, in England and some down in the States.

Q. "By the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited acquiring this company, the Shawinigan Mill could always be run to its full capacity, as any production not required to fill orders could be converted by the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited into cloth."

A. Yes; never was, though.

Q. "The chairman then stated to the meeting that Mr. Alex Pringle held an option for the purchase of approximately seventy-five per cent of the total common stock of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited, which he was prepared to transfer over to this company at the option price, viz: ten dollars per share.

After due consideration and discussion the directors were of the opinion that it was to the advantage of the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited topurchase from Mr. Alexander Pringle the shares of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited's common stock which he held under option amounting to approximately seventy-five per cent of the total common stock of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited." And that was carried.

"It was moved by Mr. Pyke and seconded by Mr. W.T. Whitehead that this company do purchase from

"Mr. Alex Pringle the said shares of the Shawinigan Cotton Company Limited, stock, amounting to approximately seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or such shares as he may hold at this date. This motion being put to the meeting was carried.

The secretary was authorized to inform Mr. Alex Pringle that the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited accepted his offer of September 5th, 1916 to purchase all the shares of the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited which he held at this date, at $10.00 per share."

Then, a banking resolution was passed providing for the credit of $600,000 at the Bank of Hochelaga. Then, we come to -- I think the next minute of the Shawinigan Company is the 16th of October, 1930, when the capital of the Shawinigan Company was reduced from a million dollars to ten thousand dollars? A. Yes, Mr. McRuer. I don't know whether it is a matter of importance but I would like to ask you at that point, you agree with me that the most we could have held at any one point was 4,593.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. The most was what?
A. The most shares that Greenshields and I could have held at any one time,had we held every share that was floating around, was 4,590 shares.

Q. That is in this Shawinigan mill?
A. Yes. As a matter of fact, the highest that I have ever held was 1,880 shares out of which I had to give some to other people who went in with us and took large subscriptions of bonds.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. That is you personally?

A. Yes. I took one hundred thousand of bonds myself, and out of that 1,880 I gave bonuses to some people who subscribed to bonds. Now, the most that Greenshields ever had was 2080 shares.

Q. Then, we come to a minute of the 16th of October, 1930, which reads as follows:

> "On motion duly seconded the following by-law was adopted. WHEREAS the present share capital of the company is $1,000,000 divided into 10,000 shares of common stock of the par value of $100 each, all of which shares have been issued and are presently outstanding and are fully paid-up and non-assessable; and WHEREAS the said paid-up share capital of the company is now unrepresented by available assets to the extent of ninety-nine per cent thereof; and WHEREAS it is in the interests of the company that the amount of its share capital should be reduced to the extent that the same is unrepresented by available assets as aforesaid; Now therefore be it enacted as by-law 22 of the Shawinigan Cotton Company, Limited as follows: 1. Subject to confirmation by Supplementary Letters Patent, the share capital of the Company is hereby reduced from the sum of $1,000,000 divided into 10,000 fully paid up and non-assessable shares of common stock of the par value of $100 each, to the sum of $10,000 divided into 10,000 fully paid-up and non-assessable shares of common stock of the par value of $1.00 each."

I do not need to read the rest of the by-law; it provides

for application for Supplementary Letters Patent.

Now, I have asked for the annual reports of the Shawinigan Company, which you have been good enough to furnish me with, and I think that these are all correct from the year 1911 down to the year 1935 --

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What are these?

MR. McRUER: The annual reports, the balance sheet, and profit and loss statement.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you putting them in as an exhibit?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Separately?

MR. McRUER: No, I will put them in the same as I did with the others, and have them all put in the one envelope.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 100. You call them --

MR. McRUER: The annual statements.

THE COMMISSIONER: From when to when?

MR. McRUER: Annual statements from the year 1911 to 1935, both inclusive.

EXHIBIT #100: Annual Statements of Shawinigan Cotton Company from year 1911 to 1935.

THE WITNESS: These would be in order. There is no question about that.

THE COMMISSIONER: The annual financial statements?

MR. McRUER: The annual financial statements, yes, my lord. Now, I just want to run over the experiences of this company up to 1916 when this sale of stock took place. I notice the profit and loss account in 1911 shows a gross profit, including dividends from

from stock in other companies, of $53,714.76. There is nothing written off that year for depreciation. What stock did this company hold in other companies?
A. The two knitting companies.

Q. They held stock there? A. Yes, so we must have got something from them.

Q. And the investment in the balance sheet shows $414,000 in the other companies?
A. In knitting companies.

Q. Then, in 1912, the gross profit was $73,000, or less bad debts, $72,885.24, and they pay their bond interest of $44,490 leaving a balance brought forward of $61,000, but nothing for depreciation either, there. Then we come to 1913. The net earnings from trading account, and from dividends in other companies, amount to $97,800, and bond interest of $58,400 or net profits of $39,380, but nothing for depreciation. 1914, there was a trading profit of $37,760; the bond interest is $61,000 paid, but nothing for depreciation. I notice that the directors say at this time in submitting the report for the twelve months ending 30th of June, 1914 --

> "We regret that the showing made is not as favourable as we had hoped. This is attributable to the general business depression, and particularly to the fact that supplying other manufacturers largely with their raw material, we felt the curtailment in trade to its fullest extent."

Then we come to 1915. The net earnings from trade were $31,000 and nothing for depreciation. In 1916

net earnings of $47,000 and nothing for depreciation. So, would you not say that the deal made in 1916 with the Wabasso Company was not an advantageous one for the holders of the stock, the bonus stock?
A. I don't quite agree there, Mr. McRuer, because right up to the present time we have paid $10.00 a share to anybody who wanted to sell that stock. You have given a certain number of annual statements, but if you would follow the statements right on down to to-day -- we found a great many of these gentlemen would not sell. They were going to hold on. They said they would hold on and see what was coming. Therefore we felt it was worth $10 a share, although at $10 a share we paid all that stock was worth, fully, and having started at $10 we kept at it, because then comes in the question, did you pay one man a fair price compared with another, so once having started at $10 we kept on at $10.00. We thought that was a perfectly fair offer for that stock.

Q. Then, when you get down to 1930 why did you write down the capital of the company? A. Well, manifestly the company was more or less bankrupt. It hadn't any assets there except what was covered by its bond issue. The common stock did not represent very much, did it, and we saved in taxes and so forth by writing down to one dollar a share.

Q. I was wondering why the common stock did not represent something in 1930 as well as in 1916?
A. If you would read the statements all the way down, you will find that we were gradually getting in the hole.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You were what?

A. Gradually going in deeper and deeper. It was not a profitable concern.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. You were making operating profits but when you wrote off depreciation you were showing losses? A. Yes, we were.

Q. At the time in 1930 when you wrote down the capital of the company I believe the losses appeared to be about a million dollars? A. Yes.

Q. So it was about equivalent to the amount you wrote off the capital of the company? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What has become of the company since then? A. The company has operated up until this year, and the Wabasso has now bought it and is applying for the cancellation of its charter.

Q. It is not operating now? A. It is operating; Wabasso is operating it.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. You say Wabasso has bought it? A. You see, they gradually got the shares.

Q. They have got the shares? A. Yes.

Q. Did they get 100% of the shares eventually? A. I think there are about 15 shares out, people we cannot find anywhere.

Q. You have gradually gathered in all the shares? A. Yes.

Q. So that Wabasso owns it completely? A. Yes.

Q. And you are consolidating it and you are going to apply for the surrender of its charter?

with you, Mr. Capel? Is that correct with your figures?

THE COMMISSIONER: That would be added to the eight hundred thousand and some --

MR. McRUER: That would be added to the eight hundred and eleven thousand to bring it down to date. That would be one million on the original stock that was given away as bonus.

THE WITNESS: Plus the stock that was paid for, plus the stock that was paid for.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Just let us have this schedule. A. You have got it there all figured out. You want to get it on the bonus stock?

Q. I want to get it on the bonus stock. A. Not on what they paid for. Mr. Capel, have you got that figure there on the bonus -- thirty-five thousand --

Q. Thirty-five thousand, that is the way I am figuring, or I am figuring it on less than that. I am figuring it on thirty-four thousand, seven hundred and forty because there were 130 shares paid for? A. Yes.

Q. So that on thirty-four thousand, seven hundred and forty shares, that was bonus shares according to my computation; which would be $1,152,120 paid in dividends. That is $138,960 for 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927.

(Page 1270 follows)

I think that is right, 1927 $138,960, and 1928, there is the regular dividend of $138,960 and a bonus of $1.50 a share, which would be $52,500. I think I can check it. I think I am pretty close to it?
A. Yes, I cannot check it with that.

Q. I think that is agreeable; that is about right, $1,142,180 paid in dividends.

THE COMMISSIONER: On the bonus shares.

MR. McRUER: On the bonus shares alone, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, just one other question or two, Mr. Whitehead? A. That is from 1907, the start of the company, to 1935?

Q. Yes, that is on your experience down to date.
A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is right down to date.

THE WITNESS: Yes, from 1907.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. To that be be added $1.00 a share for the first quarter of 1929 which I do not think I included? A. Yes, I think you are entitled to add that. Of course, Mr. McRuer, at the time of the floating of those companies, the general idea all over the country was to float bonds on bonus stock just the same as to-day when everyone is trying to put bonds out for short term serial bonds as against a 40 or 50-year bond. Otherwise they issued, from time to time, just as they think the market is calling.

Q. All I am getting at is, what the result has been.

Now, Mr. Whitehead, there is one thing I was not able to get clear from your son, and I wonder if you could help me any on it? In 1932, the balance sheet of the company shows a loss of about $282,000, that is, of the Wabasso Company. I was enquiring as to what portion of that loss was attributable to losses in the purchase of raw cotton? A. I cannot answer that off-hand. We would have to figure that out very carefully for you.

Q. Well, do you recollect whether there were large losses made that year in the purchase of raw cotton? A. Well, there was a loss made in it, but there were several things attributing to the loss that year. In my report - I have not got it here - I covered some of them.

Q. Well, yes, I see one that you covered.

THE COMMISSIONER: What do you mean by Loss in the purchase of raw cotton?

MR. Mc RUER: They show a large inventory of raw cotton, and it has gone down.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I notice your prior inventory shows, in the year before, about $2,000,000 worth of raw cotton, and then there is a little change as we go on. Do you remember whether there were some outstanding losses made? A. There was some loss made in raw cotton that year.

Q. That is 1934? A. Yes.

Q. And you can let me know how much it was?

A. Yes, we will get that information for you.

Q. Were you dealing in futures in cotton at that time? A. I don't just exactly follow you; what do you mean by that? You see, we always deal in futures. If you come to us and want to buy a thousand bales of cloth we do not have any speculation on that because we cover ourselves immediately in futures. Otherwise, my lord, we might set out and might make a tremendous loss, or we might likewise make a tremendous profit. But we cover ourselves immediately. In other words, we do not speculate.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. What I went to ask, in addition to buying, we will say, as against your sales - and I want to make sure that I understand that, if you make a sale of $100,000 worth of cloth you say you immediately buy raw cotton as against that? A. Yes. We don't buy raw cotton, we buy futures.

Q. You buy futures? A. Yes.

Q. But you base your selling price of cloth on what you are going to have to pay for futures that day? A. Yes.

Q. So that you know how to price your cloth? A. Yes.

Q. But, in addition to that, were you dealing with futures on the market? A. No, we never deal with futures on the market; we never speculate anything.

Q. Well, how could you make this big inventory loss on raw cotton? A. Well, I am not exactly sure

what the figure on raw cotton is; I would have to find that out.

Q. Then you will get me that figure if you can, please? A. Yes.

Q. Of course, the way you sent it out to the shareholders was:

> "This loss has been largely brought about by keen foreign competition....."

A. What else did I say?

Q. And :

> "And the downward trend of selling prices and by the continued business depression?

A. Yes, the continued business depression, that is what affected cotton, the downward trend of prices. You don't always tell your company's position to your opposition; you don't always tell the opposition company exactly what you are doing.

Q. I suppose that is quite natural.

MR. McRUER: I think that is all, Mr. Whitehead.

MR. BEAUREGARD: I have one or two questions I would like to ask Mr. Whitehead.

EXAMINATION BY MR. BEAUREGARD:

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Mr. Whitehead, we have had before this Court the union's version and the workers' version on the strike of January last, and your name has been mentioned at certain intervals, and I wonder whether you have had any Pourparlers with the employees as to the reason for the strike and the conditions

for the going back of the employees. Had you any talk with the employees? A. No, I talked with the Committee one night only for a few minutes.

Q. When you say the "Committee" I understand you have what you call an industrial committee? A. A committee of the workers.

Q. A small committee? A. Yes.

Q. There was a man by the name of Fortin. Do you know them by name? A. No.

Q. How many were there? A. I think there were five or six.

Q. And did this conversation take place at the Mill? A. No, in the Police Station, the Chief's office.

Q. At the Police Station in the City of Three Rivers? A. Yes.

Q. Was there any convocation of any sort, or how did it happen that you were there and the committee were there? A. Well, the Mayor asked me if I would go and meet them, and I said I would.

Q. Can you remember whether it was a committee, or whether it was just a few men going there on their own? A. I cannot tell you that, because I didn't know any of their names. I was told by the Mayor that there was a committee who wanted to speak to me, and I said I would go and speak to them.

Q. Anyway, you were invited by the Mayor to meet some of the workers who wanted to speak to you? A. Yes.

Q. And that meeting took place at the Police Station? A. Yes.

Q. Not at the Mayor's Office? A. No, sir.

Q. The Police Station? A. Yes, in the Chief's office.

Q. And conversations took place, I suppose? A. Yes.

Q. And did you take any part in the conversation yourself? A. Yes, I had a talk with the men.

Q. Will you please tell the Court what took place? A. I did not go into details at all. I simply told them, that we were handling a large number of men, and that it is almost impossible in this world to make everybody feel you are giving justice. If you have three men on a job and one man has got to go, then one man has a grievance and two are satisfied, and it is the same all over. I told them that what we did was to try and treat our men properly and as fairly as we could.

Q. Well, you went there, and did you discuss any proposition submitted to the authorities of the Wabasso Company? A. They asked me if we were willing to recognize the Union, that is what they really wanted to know. I had conferred with my Board of Directors.

Q. But that one question was put to you, whether you would recognize the Union? A. Yes.

Q. And what is your reply? A. I said No. They wanted to pin it on William Whitehead for

refusing to recognize the Union, and I said No, that I had conferred with my Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors had stated that they did not want to run a Union mill or recognize a Union.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is, any union at all? A. Yes, any union at all. The men can belong to a Union if they like. We do not ask a man if he belongs to a union, or what his religion may be, but the Board of Directors refuse to recognize the Union, any union.

BY MR. BEauREGARD: Q. You are speaking of instructions of the Board. Do I understand that you had consulted the Board on this particular question? A. I had consulted the Board, yes.

Q. About the time of this strike? A. At the time of the strike.

Q. You had consulted the Board? A. Yes.

Q. Do you mean by that, that you had called a meeting of the Board? A. We sat down and talked it over.

Q. You sat down and talked it over? A. Yes.

Q. And you gave your mind to the Board; was the Board of the same mind as yourself? A. All exactl the same.

Q. We may take it for granted then that you gave your mind to the Board? A. I did not give it to them first. I let the Board give it to me. I always do as chairman. First of all, I consult them and get their thoughts, and if I don't agree I tell them.

and give the reason why, and if I agree I say so.

Q. And may we take it for granted then that the Board was unanimous? A. Yes.

Q. Can we have the wording of that resolution of the Board ? A. Well no, because we simply talked it over.

Q. It was rather a caucus then and not a regular meeting? A. We had met together for that purpose.

Q. It was not a meeting of the Company, it was a caucus? A. It was a meeting of the Directors.

Q. And did you keep records of that meeting? A. No.

Q. Generally speaking, don't you keep records of your meetings? A. We do, but we just met to talk the situation over.

Q. Had your Directors met on your invitation to discuss this particular question that had arisen, that is, the question of the Union, and you were all of one mind, that is, that you do not recognize any union whatever? A. Well, we have our own little committee.

Q. Had this meeting taken place before you met some of the workers at the Police Station? A. Yes.

Q. So when you came to the Police Station it was for the purpose of conveying to the employees the decision of your Board? A. Well, no, it was not for that purpose. I did not know what I was going to do. I went there because the Mayor asked me.

But you asked me if I remembered something definite being asked. Well, that was one definite point.

Q. When you were in the presence of the workers themselves that qestion was asked of you, whether the Company would recognize the Union and you said No? A. Yes.

Q. And I suppose that is still your mind? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. By recognizing the Union, does that mean dealing with the Union in problems concerning the men? A. Yes.

Q. And you won't do that? A. No.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Well, you have no objection to the men belonging to a union, just as they belong to some religion or other, just so long as it does not interfere with the work in the mill? A. That is the idea.

Q. You do not want to deal with the union as a body? A. No.

Q. You know the purpose of the Union, I suppose? I mean, you know why these men were forming a union? A. Well, I do not know whether my thoughts are the same as yours.

Q. Well, I would like to know what your thoughts are. What my thoughts are do not matter, so far as the Court is concerned. A. Well, I don't just exactly see what answer you want.

MR. LAJOIE: He may know what they want but he does not know their purpose.

THE WITNESS: Well, they told me that evening that the primary thing they wanted was recognition of the Union, that is what they told me.

Q. Why is it that you will not recognize the Union, what have you against that? A. Well, just having a body of men tell us exactly how we are going to run our business, because if you have got that you simply cannot run a business profitably or successfully.

Q. So that your mind about the Union is, that Union is going to dictate to you how to run your business, that is the concept you have of a union? A. Well, I am basing that on the proposition they put before us.

Q. What proposition did they put before you? A. They put a written proposition before us.

Q. A written proposition. Was it a printed one, or was it typewritten, or do you remember? A. I don't know.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is Exhibit 49.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. We have had already filed Exhibit 49, the very thing which you now hold in your hand. Would yourecognize this writing as being the one that was submitted to you as the concrete demands of the workers to the authorities of the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited? A. Do you want me to read it all through?

Q. I want you to read it so that you can tell me whether you recognize it as a concrete proposition

put forward to you by the workers. Did you ever see that document before? A. I think so.

Q. Well, if you wish, we will take the the paragraphs one by one. If you will please follow me, the first part is the description of the Company as members of the covenant, if there had to be a covenant? A. Yes.

Q. And the second part gives the names of employees, and then we come to the first paragraph, which I will read:

> La partie de première part et la partie de seconde part, pour l'avancement mutuel d'un chacun, décrètent ce qui suit:

Have you any objection to that as I have read it? A. I think the law takes care of that without any intervention by us.

Q. So I take it for granted that you have no objection to this first paragraph? A. We have got to obey the law.

Q. Of course, there are a few things you are bound to do, but I am asking you to tell me what objection you have to this first paragraph which I have just read? A. I don't think we ever had any objection to any of these points. The only thing we said was that we were not going to recognize a union.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think you had better take them one by one.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. You understand the document you have in your hand is in French. You understand it, and can read it all right? A. Yes.

Q. Well, on this first paragraph have you any objection to that? A. No.

Q. Or have you at the time of the meeting? A. No.

Q. Then I will ~~x~~ just read the second paragraph:

> "2. L'age des employés devra etre en conformité aux lois actuellement en force et qui deviendront en force;"

A. Well, we never had any question on that, I don't think.

Q. You do not oppose that at all? A. We follow the law .

Q. Well, that may be your policy, but do you accept that? A. We accept the law.

Q. That is not the same? A. Oh , yes.

Q. We are all bound to accept the law? A. Well then, we accept the law.

Q. Do you recognize this as the law? A. We do not recognize any covenant with these men.

Q. Do you recognize what is said in the second paragraph? Do you accept this or do you refuse it? A. We accept the law, yes.

Q. I will ask you to give me a proper answer as to that. The proper answer is not that you accept the law? A. Are you asking whether I agree to that as a business?

Q. As to the second one, you accept it in as much as it is the law? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be so? A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. As to the third:

"3. Les salaires qui seront fixes le seront appres enquete approfondie de toute la situation et cette enquete devra etre completee avant la fin du present mois;"

Did you accept or did you refuse that paragraph?

PAR MTRE LAJOIE: Il a ete reconnu par les representants de l 'Union, par l'exhibit 49, que Monsieur Bastien avait dans ses mains que les cinq premieres propositions avaient ete acceptees par les representants de la compagnie, et que toute la difficulte etait sur le No. 6.

THE COMMISSIONER: C'est ce que Monsieur le Maire a dit.

MR. LAJOIE: Pour les deux premiere Monsieur Bastien nous a dit que la compagnie les acceptait.

Le tmeoin: Lit:

3.- Les Salaires qui seront fixes le seront apres enquete approfondie de toute la situation et cette enquete devra etre completee avant la fin du present mois."

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Now, what exactly had you against that? I am not submitting to you now a covenant. I am speaking to you about a proposition that has been submitted to you by the group of workers, and I want to know whether, when this group of workers

submitted this document to you whether you accepted it or not.

MR. LAJOIE:

Ce n'est pas exact. Ce n'est pas les ouvriersqui ont concu ce projet, c'est Monsieur le Maire. La compagnie n'a jamais voulu discuter avec eux comme Union.: "Vous avez ferme les portes de notre moulin, vous vous etes empare de notre propriete, nous ne voulons pas avoir affaires avec vous." C'est monsieur le maire commemediateur qui a propose de rencontrer Monsieur Whitehead.

Par M. le COMMISSAIRE: Avec le comite?

MR. LAJOIE: Je ne sais pas si le comite eetait present.

M. LE COMMISSIONER:

Q. La question est basee sur cette reunion qui a lieu chez le chef de police, entre ce comite et Monsieur Whitehead. Il y avait la trois parties; il y avait Monsieur le Maire, il y avait le comite des ouvriers et Monsieur Whitehead.

Monsieur Lajoie:

Je n'etais pas a la station.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Is that right, Mr. Whitehead? We are talking now of this incident which took place in the office of the Chief of Police. You were there, the Mayor was there, and this Committee of the workers were there? A. Yes.

Q. And what Mr. Beauregard wants to find out

is what you did say then, not what you are saying now. A. I did not discuss anyof these things there, my lord.

Q. You did not? A. No. I did not discuss anything with the men at all. They asked me to meet them. The Mayor asked me to go and meet these gentlemen, and I met them and asked them what they had to say and they told me.

Q. And was that document not submitted to you there? A. Oh, no.

Q. Is this the first time you have seen it? A. I saw it onee in my son's hands, and no other place.

M. LAJOIE: Je crois qu{on se trompe. L'incident de la station de police, M. Bastien et M. Fortin sont venus declarer que ceux qui etaient la n'etaiant pas autorises a les representer; ils les ont blames. On essaie de faire de cette reunion, la reunion de Monsieur le Maire avec les representants, a la station de police..... c'etaient des mecontents de l'union qui onte plus loin que les autres.

M. LE COMMSAIRE: Parlez-vous de la station de police: Le Temoin:

Je me suis rendu a la station parce que Monsieur le Maire m'a demande de les rencontrer.

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BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. And we understand that this document No. 49 was never submitted to you at the meeting you have just spoken of? I mean the meeting at the Police Station, in the Chief's office? A. No, nothing like that at all.

Q. When the Mayor was present? A. No, not to me.

Q. This document was not submitted to you there and then? A. No.

Q. I heard you state - I don't know if it is in your deposition - that you had seen that document in the hands of your son? A. He showed it to me.

Q. And then you discussed it with your son? A. Yes.

Q. But you did not discuss it in the presence of the Mayor? A. No.

Q. You did not? A. No.

Q. Then are you sure that the group of men which you met at the Chief of Police's office was the Committee, or was a group of workers? A. I just said a few moments ago that I did not know who they were personally.

Q. But I think you called them a committee at the start? A. I think what I said was, that the Mayor asked me to come down and have a talk with the men, and I said I would go down. I went there at his request and there were five or six men there, and I think he called them a committee.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What occurred then? A. We discussed the details, -- not any of these details, but we discussed the question of trying to show them that as a company, we did all we could to try and give justice; but that was our one aim, to try and give justice, but where there is such a large number of people employed, - and I don't care where you go - it is most difficulty my lord, to absolutely satisfy everybody.

Q. And that is what you said there? A. That is what I said there, and they wanted to know if the Company would recognize the Union and I said No, and they said there was no use talking the thing over further.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. You did not make any offer to them? A. No, none whatever. I told them we had our Mill Committee, Works Committee, whatever you like to call it.

MR. LAJOIE: They call it "Industrial Committee".

MR. WHITEHEAD: Industrial Committee; but we would not recognize the Union and they said Well---

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. You did not mention any union at all? A. No.

Q. You made no distinction between one union or another? A. There was no name mentioned.

Q. So you refused to recognize any union, as to its nature or its origin? A. They were not speaking for the so-called Industrial Committee.

Q. Is that the only meeting you had with the workers during that strike? A. Yes, that is the only one.

Q. How long did this conversation take? A? About 15 or 20 minutes.

Q. Was there more than one man there to talk for the workingmen? A. Oh yes, two or three talked.

Q. Did the Mayor say anything? A. Yes, the Mayor talked.

Q. Did the Mayor present any proposition on the behalf of the workers? A. No.

Q. He did not present any proposition? A. No.

Q. He was just a witness between yourself and the group of workers? A. Yes, just bringing the two of us together.

Q. Was there any trouble there? A. No.

Q. Was there any disturbance? A. No, quite pleasant as far as I know.

Q. You had nothing to complain about? A. No.

Q. Before that meeting, had you personal knowledge of the letter that was written by the workers to Mr. William Whitehead, in which letter was included the document which now forms part of Exhibit 47? A. Yes, William showed me that.

Q. I suppose you had an opportunity to discuss it with your son William? A. Yes.

Q. That is, the contents of that letter as well as the contents of the document annexed thereto? A. Yes.

Q. What was the reply given to the ~~gix~~ letter, do you know? A. Well, we did not agree to the letter, that was the whole thing.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. The letter is from? A. The letter is from LaBrie.

MR. BEAUREGARD: He is secretary of the United Textile Workers of America?

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You say you did not write the letter? A. Oh no, I did not say that. I said William showed me the letter.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Did you decide with your son what reply to make to this letter? A. We decided we would not agree to it.

Q. Not to agree to it? A. Yes.

Q. Did you take it as a whole, or did you agree to any part of it? A. We discussed it in detail. As a whole, we would not agree to it; we refused to discuss it in detail.

Q. On the whole, was it a question of principle ? A. We won't discuss with the union at all. We will discuss with our own Industrial Committee but not with the Union.

Q. You mean the Industrial Committee, the body of forty-five persons? A. That is the Industrial Committee.

Q. The Committee which is composed of forty-five persons? A. Yes.

Q. And that is the body you refer to as the

Industrial Committee? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever attend any meeting of the Industrial Committee? A. No.

Q. Never? A. No.

Q. You do not know what work the Committee has done? A. No. My son does that.

MR. BEAUREGARD: All right, nothing more, Mr. Whitehead.

WILLIAM J. WHITEHEAD, Recalled,

EXAMINED BY MR. McRUER:

Q. Mr. Whitehead, you manufactured rayon, to a certain degree, for some time? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Pardon me, Mr. McRuer, what do you mean by "certain degree"?

MR. McRUER: I was just going to ask about that my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Did you manufacture goods composed entirely of rayon, or use rayon with cotton? A. We sampled a bit of 100 per cent. rayon mixtures, rayon cloth, but the big volume of production, or the volume of production, or any of the cloths we actually sold were mixtures.

Q. So that you did not go into the business of manufacturing rayon cloth, that is, pure rayon cloth? A. Apart from just sampling.

Q. Apart from sampling, but you did manufacture some that was partly of cotton and partly of rayon?

A. Well, celanese.

Q. Celanese? A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever use rayon at all? A. During the last period before we went out of artificial silk mixtures we used a little bit of viscos yarn, but not in as big quantity as we used celanese.

Q. I want to get at when you stopped the manufacture of rayon? A. It was about 1930.

Q. Well, according to the Census of Industry reports under the heading "Silk and cotton mixtures", nothing appears after 1930? A. That is about right.

THE COMMISSIONER: How long did it go on?

MR. McRUER: Well, my statement starts in 1928, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Did you manufacture any before that? A. Well, no, I don't think so, Mr.McRuer; about two years or three years altogether.

Q. I think it is on one of your statements, Mr. Whitehead. I will have it. A. That would be about the date, Mr. McRuer.

Q. About 1930? A. I said between 1927 and 1930, about.

Q. And since that time you have not manufactured any artificial silk goods? A. No. Well, excuse me. When you are speaking of artificial silk goods, you mean these flat goods for dress materials, I suppose.

Q. I mean anything. If there is anything

Q. I mean anything? If there is anything else,I want to know about it. A. We market corset cloths with a silk pattern worked on it.

Q.And do you still make the corset cloths? A. Yes.

Q. You are still in that business? A. Yes.

Q. Doing any extensive business in that at all? A. Well, that business is seasonal, it also is very much controlled by style. Some years we have a good time, and other times we don't have very much, depending how much the young ladies wish to preserve their figures.

Q. I see. I want to just trace that a little bit for a moment. You use rayon in that? A. Yes, viscos.

Q. What proportion of rayon to cotton? A. Oh, the actual proportion is very small. It is just for he pattern work on the top. It runs to, I don't suppose more than 100 ends to the inch at the most.

Q. Yes. Anything with rayon in it is protected far more highly than cotton under the Customs Tariff Act? A. It is protected, yes.

Q. It is protected, of course, but it is under the rayon schedule? A. Yes.

Q. Of 40 cents a pound ? A. Yes.

Q. Specific? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Is that a fact, regardless of the proportion of rayon in the cloth?

MR. McRUER: Yes. If there is one rayon thread in it, it comes under the rayon tariff.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

the COMMISSIONER: That means, if there is any proportion of rayon in it whatever it comes in as rayon?

MR. McRUER: It comes in as rayon, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Just looking at Exhibit 95, which is an analysis of sales by commodity groups, you have under the heading of "Silk - fancies", 311,000 yards; and then there is plain silk, rayon, shirting, voile, and miscellaneous. I don't see this. A. Under"fancies".

Q. Oh, it is included in the "fancies"? A. Fancies, yes, but it is under the heading "Plain silk - fancies." Oh no, plain silk;on one it is plain silk, and the other it is in fancies.

Q. You have no plain silk at all in 1935? A. No.

Q. Well,take 1934. Where do these mixers come in? I have got plain silk, 6,980 yards; rayon lining, 28,259? A. It must come in under this corset cloth. I think they have sorted them out differently in this last census.

Q. Yes. When you were using celanese, where did you get your yarn? A.Drummondville. We got, I think, a little bit originally from England, but the volume came from Drummondville.

Q. When did you stop using that celanese yarn? A. 1930.

Q. Why? A. Because we could not compete.

Q. Why not, what do you mean by you could not compete? A. We could not compete with the other Canadian mills.

Q. Well, what was the reason for that? A. Well, we were a cotton mill and they were building silk mills, and it was just out of our line. When it got down to professional silk manufacturers competing with cotton machinery it got a little out of our depth.

Q. Were you buying all the yarn you wanted? A. Yes.

Q. You could get all the yarn from celanese you wanted? A. Yes.

Q. Was the price satisfactory? A. Well, they charged us the price they had to pay.

Q. There was no other place to go? A. We were using the celanese yarn. We had not started using visco.

Q. And when did you or why did you change to visco? A. Because visco yarns, - they were using visco yarns in the cheaper cloths, and the demand of the market, as I understand it, then was for the visco yarns on account of finish, and feel and dying.

Q. Yes? A. They are two different yarns altogether, and the visco yarn is easier to

manipulate in the mill than the celanese yarn.

Q. Where do you get your rayon yarns now?

A. Cortaulds, Cornwall. As a matter of fact, we happen to have a balance at Drummondville to take up yet, I believe. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Balance of what?

A. Balance of contract.

MR. McRUER: The tariff item, my lord, on rayon, in 1923, was 17½ per cent. British preference, 32½ intermediate, and 35 general.

THE COMMISSIONER: You say that is in 1923?

A. MR. McRUER: 1923, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh yes.

MR. Mc RUER: In 1930, to date, it is 27½ and 30 cents a pound.

THE COMMISSIONER: British preference?

MR. McRUER: British preference; intermediate 40 and 40 cents a pound, general, 45 per cent. and 40 cents apound.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is on all rayon?

MR. McRUER: And composed in part of either artificial silk is the same, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is there a large proportion of that comes from Great Britain or from British Dominions?

THE WITNESS: I would not answer that question, my lord, because I am not interested in it.

THE COMMISSIONER: I was really asking Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: I think there is none coming, my lord. I suppose Britain would try to come if she could,

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well now, I want to go into a little matter on one subject that came up with you in respect to this; that is one of your corset cloths, is it not? A. Yes.

Q. And it has a proportion of rayon in it? A. Yes.

Q. The shiny part, I suppose, is the rayon? A. The silk.

Q. And the rest of it is cotton? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Those shiny stripes, you mean?

MR. McRUER: The shiny stripes, yes, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now then, after the changes in the tariff took place in 1930, when the tariff was very considerably increased on this article, some of the manufacturers of corset cloth felt that it was something of a burden on them. A. Some of the manufacturers of corset cloth.

Q. The manufacturers of coreset cloth felt that this was something of a burden on them.

THE COMMISSIONER: What was something of a burden?

MR. McRUER: The increased tariff on these articles, and the fact that the tariff applied to he rayon although there might be very little rayon in the article.

THE WITNESS: You speak of the manufacturers of corset cloth?

Q. I mean the people who use ~~eler~~ corset cloth

for the purpose of manufacturing their corsets? A. Yes, consumers.

MR. McRUER: Yes, consumers of corset cloth.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I understand it now.

MR. McRUER: That was my fault, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. They felt it was something of a burden on them? A. Well, they never expressed that opinion to me.

Q. Well, it must have come to your company because I have some interesting correspondence about it. As a matter of fact, I think your company took it up with almost every Member of Parliament and Minister, including the Prime Minister, that they knew of.

THE COMMISSIONER: From what point of view?

MR. McRUER: From the point of view of objecting to any change in the tariff in regard to this matter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is there a file of correspondence on thesubject?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: When does it begin and when does it end?

MR. McRUER: I begins on the 30th October, 1930, and runs on through into May, 1931. I think the effect of the whole thing and what was done by this Company could best be done by reading the correspondence.

MR. LAJOIE: Is it the Company's correspondence? I would like to know from whom it is.

MR. McRUER: The correspondence first is with

a firm of solicitors, making representations on behalf of this corset company.

THE COMMISSIONER: Which corset company?

MR. McRUER: A corset company.

THE COMMISSIONER: Where do the documents come from?

MR. McRUER: They come from the Department's file.

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, from Ottawa; not from this company?

MR. McRUER: No, my lord. Then that is followed by copies of letters that are written on behalf of the Wabasso Company to different ministers; and then there are letters that are written by the Wabasso Company, I have copies from the Wabasso files, to different members of Parliament, including Sir George Perley, and Honourable Mr. Sauve, and one or two others.

MR. LANCTOT: And to Mr. Dunning?

MR. MCRUER: There are none to Mr. Dunning, and please don't interrupt, Mr. Lanctot. And then we have some letters from one Minister to the other on the subject matter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well then, I think you had better begin with the first document.

MR. McRUER: The first representations, yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: The first document you had in your hand a moment ago is a copy of the correspondence on file at Ottawa in the Department of Customs?

MR. McRUER: Department of National Revenue.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well then, that will be Exhibit 101.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: And you are putting them in as one exhibit?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: And you are putting them in, not Mr. Whitehead.

MR. LAJOIE: Before you file this exhibit I am entitled to see it.

MR. McRUER: Yes, quite right.

~~MR. McRUER:~~ MR. LAJOIE: I object to the filing of a private file of a department, especially when it is composed of letters exchanged with the private secretary; we do not know of which department. There is no heading to the letters, no signature by the private secretary, and addressed to one Mr.S. Duggan; that is the first letter. The second letter is from Duggan, Gibson and Smith, Barristers, Toronto, to Mr. Trumpour, Private Secretary, Minister of National Revenue. What has this letter to do with this Inquiry? The third is a blank form of letter without signature. The fourth is a letter from Duggan, Gibson and Smith, addressed to the Honourable Mr. Ryckman, Minister of National Revenue, with a notation on it by whom I do not know. And then there is a sample, supposed to be from Wabasso Cotton

addressed by Mr. Duggan to the Commissioner of Customs; and so on.

THE COMMISSIONER: Who is Mr. Duggan, according to that letter?

MR. McRUER: Duggan is the solicitor for the Corset company.

MR.LAJOIE: An attorney from Toronto.

MR. McRUER: For the Corset company that is making application, or putting their easebefore the Department in regard to the hardship of this tariff on this very article that is manufactured by this company. And then I find on the Company's files---

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, we will come to that later. You see, Mr. Lajoie, as we go through this inquiry we will have to get quite a lot of material from this Department of government at Ottawa, and from other departments of government. It happens that Mr. McRuer is bringing it up now, but Mr.Whitehead is not responsible for that; you are not responsible for that. It is not evidence concerning you directly; it concerns the whole industry. Do you see the point?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: The fact that Mr. McRuer is tendering it to-day, - well, it just happens to be while your Company is under examination; but it might have been given to me a week ago, or a week hence, for that matter. The only person who can object,

as far as I am concerned, to any of these documents going in is someone from the Department who has custody of the Departments. However, if that department chooses to hand them to Mr. McRuer, and he wants me to see them, and they are relevant to my general inquiry, I am going to accept them unless the Department objects.

MR. LAJOIE: My objection, your Lordship, is that they are being produced during the evidence of Mr. Whitehead, while you are enquiring at Three Rivers intothe Wabasso Company. They asked Mr. Whitehead, in his evidence, to file an exhibit, No. 100, but what is being filed now are letters and copies of letters--

THE COMMISSIONER: No, no. I pointed that out, Mr. Lajoie. We cannot ask Mr. Whitehead to file those. Those do not emanate from Mr. Whitehead.

MR. LAJOIE: I suppose it could have been done at your first meeting in Ottawa?

THE COMMISSIONER: Of course. This file here, I understand, covers the whole question of duty on rayon, insofar as the whole industry is concerned; that is why you are filing it?

MR. McRUER: I am filing it now, your lordship, because I want to ask Mr. Whitehead about it, and because his company took certain action on it.

THE COMMISSIONER: You may have to ask other companies that will come before us, questions on the very same file. It pertains to the whole industry.

Mr. Whitehead is not responsible. The only one who can refuse to let it come here is some one from the Department of Government. How did you get this from the Department?

MR. McRUER: I asked them for correspondence in regard to these matters, and they sent it on to me.

THE COMMISSIONER: They had nothing to do with your Company?

MR. LANCTOT: I am interested in this too, my lord, since I represent the industry.

THE COMMISSIONER: I will tell you this, Mr. Lanctot, and Mr. Lajoie: this is an examination of Mr. Whitehead on matters upon which this throws some light, and he is also connected with it, apparently, by some correspondence of his own company. You may want to clear that up, as far as you are concerned, by reexamining Mr. Whitehead, or by some other evidence, and I will give you all the time and opportunity if you want to do that. You need not worry now about having this file thrown at you in this way. You will have all the time you want. I know it is rather disconcerting to have it brought in just now, but, as I say, you will have all the time you want to go over it and examine it before we are through with it. You can file that now, Mr. McRuer, but Mr. Lajoie must be given full opportunity to go through all these things before he examines Mr. Whitehead.

MR. McRUER: Oh yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is a file from the Department of National Revenue?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my Lord.

MR. LANCTOT: My lord, I would like my objection noted in case some of my clients, from whom I do not have a special mandate, come with another objection. I object to the production of the file as it is now.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well, Mr. Lanctot.

MR. McRUER: I just want to put them in order of date.

MR. LANCTOT: What exhibit will that be, my lord?

THE COMMISSIONER: No. 101, Mr. Lanctot.

EXHIBIT 101: File of correspondence from Department of National Revenue.

THE COMMISSIONER: Read the whole file now, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. The first is a letter from Mr. Duggan, to Mr. Ryckman, dated the 10th October, 1930.

THE COMMISSIONER: Tell me again who Mr. Duggan is?

MR. McRUER: The letter sets that out, my lord. He is a lawyer in Toronto:

"I am retained by The F.J.Allward Company Limited, 600 Bay Street Toronto, among other Manufacturers of corsets and similar garments, known in the trade as "foundation garments" to bring to your attention and that of your Department the effect upon the industry of the changes made by "The

Customs Tariff Act" (1930) 21 Geo. V., Chapter 3 items 561, 567 and 567 a. These changes increase the tariff.

Firstly, Upon the fabrics used in manufacturing garments, and

Secondly On the garments themselves when manufactured.

The complaint of the Canadian manufacturers of these garments is that the duty imposed upon the materials which go to compose the garment is so much greater than the duty upon the finished article that they are deprived of protection.

Corsets and "foundation garments", generally are manufactured from "woven fabrics wholly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic fibres produced by chemical processes" and these fabrics are produced mainly or practically altogether, as I am instructed, in the United States whence they are imported into Canada.

Mr. F.J.Allward has handed me, and I in turn am sending on to you samples of the materials which are principally used by him in making these garments - brocade and rayon stripe. The rayon stripe is produced in Canada for this trade by only one mill - the Wabasso Mill at Three Rivers - and is produced by that concern only in cheaper grades. This rayon stripe, is I am further instructed only a side line with this mill. Again Corset Manufacturers are accustomed to order at one time in quantities of about five hundred yards owing to changes in demand, more especially

yards owing to changes in demand, more especially in styles. The Wabasso Mill requires customers to order a much larger quantity.

The brocade is made in Canada by only one mill - Messrs. Carl Stohn - located at St. Catharines, which is a branch of a United States firm. This material also, I am instructed is manufactured by these people as a side line.

You will see that manufactuers in Canada of "foundation garments" are dependent for their supply of materials on producers in the United States.

Previous to 21 Geo. V. Chapter 3 the tariff upon these "woven fabrics whølly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic fibres produced by chemical processes" was fixed by tariff item 561 of The Customs Tariff Act" 18-19 Geo. V. Chapter 17 at 35% (general).Tariff item 561 of the new Customs tariff fixes the general tariff on these materials at 45% plus 40¢ a pound.

Of the two samples which I am enclosing the average weight of the rayon stripe is about three and one half to four yards per pound. The cost of this material in New York (it is slightly higher in Canada) is 35¢ a yard. The cost of a pound upon this material would be, Say $1.40. A tariff of 40¢ a pound upon this material would be $28.00 or $29.00. Add this to the general tariff of 45% and there is a total duty of 73% upon each pound

of this material used in a garment."

Q. By the way, Mr. Whitehead, this sample is the brocade, is it not? A. Yes.

Q. So that the sample that Mr. Duggan was dealing with, was, apparently, your sample? A. Yes.

MR. McRUER: The letter continues:

"The average weight of the brocade is about one and one half yards to the pound. This material costs from $1.25 to $1.50 in New York. The average cost of a pound would be, therefore, about $2.00. A duty of 40¢ a pound would, therefore, be 20% on this material which added to the 45% makes a total duty of 65% on each pound of this material.

The manufactured article is protected by item 567 a. which sets a general tariff of 50%, an increase on the old tariff from 37½% as fixed by item 567 a. of Chapter 17 of 18-19 Geo. V. (1928) This means that the tariff on the manufactured article has been increased 12½%while the tariff on the materials used by the Manufacturers is increased from 35% (item 561 of the Customs Tariff 18 and 19 Geo.V. Chapter 17) to 45% plus 40¢ under the new tariff or really 73% on rayon stripe materials and 65%on brocade.

This means that the duty on the materials is much higher than the duty on the manufactured articles.

Corsets and foundation garments generally, are manufactured and sold in the United States much more cheaply than in Canada and without tariff protection could be brought into this country and sold at such a price as to put the Canadian Manufacturer out of business. If the Canadian Manufacturer must pay the 40¢ a pound in addition to the 45% on his materials while only having a protection of 50% on the manufactured article, it is placing him in the same position as if he had no protection at all. One effect of this will be that many of the chief manufacturers of these garments in Canada which are branches of American concerns will cease operating their Canadian factories and import into this country from American factories.

In view of this situation I would ask that you consider either withdrawing the tariff of 40¢ a pound on the material or else proportionately increase the tariff protection upon the manufactured article.

As suggested by you I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Breadner, the Commissioner of Customs."

MR. LANCTOT: Who is that letter addressed to?

MR. McRUER: This is addressed to the Minister of National Revenue.

THE COMMISSIONER: And that is the first letter?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. That is dated October 10th, 1930.

October 11th, 1930, my lord, a letter from Mr. Duggan to Mr. Breadner:

> "As requested by the Minister of National Revenue I enclose herewith copy of a letter which I wrote him to-day relating to Mr. F.J. Allward's application for an adjustment of the tariff upon his manufactured product and materials entering into the product."

Then on the 13th October, 1930, a letter of acknowledgment by the Private Secretary pointing out the Minister is away; then a letter from the General Executive Assistant, stating that in the absence of the Commissioner he acknowledges his receipt of that letter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Who is that from?

MR. McRUER: He signs as "General Executive Assistant."

THE COMMISSIONER: Assistant to whom?

MR. McRUER: To the Commissioner of Customs, I think. He says:

> In the absence of the Commissioner, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant enclosing copy of a communication written by you on the same day to the Honourable E.B.Ryckman, K.C., relative to Mr. F.J.Allward's application for an adjustment of the tariff upon his manufactured product and materials entering into the product.
>
> "

> Your letter and its enclosure will be brought to the Commissioner's attention at the earliest possible moment."

Then another letter on the 28th October, 1930, from Mr. Duggan to the Private Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue:

> "Would you kindly advise me whether Mr.Ryckman has had a chance to consider Mr.F.J.Allward's application for an adjustment of the tariff in regard to his manufactured product and the materials entering into the product."

And a similar letter to the General Executive Assistant.

Then on October 30th, a letter acknowledging and advising that Mr. Ryckman is still in the West.

Then there is a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Customs to Duggan and Gibson on the 27th November, 1930:

> "The representations contained in your letter of the 10th ultimo, addressed to the Hon. E.B.Ryckman, Minister of National Revenue, respecting a revision of the tariff desired by Mr. F.J.Allward on corsets and similar garments, have been noted for consideration in connection with the coming revision of the tariff."

And an acknowledgment by Mr. Duggan of that letter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you through with that file?

MR. McRUER: Well, there is more to the Department's

file.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are digressing now, are you?

MR. McRUER: I think I shall have to question in regard to another exhibit, which will be Exhibit 102.

THE COMMISSIONER: What does it consist of?

MR. McRUER: This is a copy of a letter from the Wabasso Cotton Company, Limited, to Sir George Perley.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. This is being produced by you from your files, Mr. Whitehead? A. Yes.

MR. McRUER: This is dated April 25th, 1931, and letter dated April 27th, 1931, in reply.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are putting them in as one Exhibit?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then that willbe Exhibit 102.

EXHIBIT 102: Copy of letter from Wabass Company to Sir George Perley, dated April 25, 1931, and reply, dated April 27, 1931.

MR. McRUER: The letter reads as follows, my lord:

> We are informed that certain corset manufacturers are requesting the Government to make a change in Tariff item 561 as per amendment dated 22nd of September last, and which now reads as follows:

Item No. 561:	British Pref. Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff	General Tariff
Woven fabrics wholly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic			

	British Pref. Tariff	Intermediate Tariff	General Tariff
fibres produced by chemical processes, not to contain wool, not including fabrics in chief part by weight of silk...............	27-1/2%	40%	45%
and............. per poud,	30¢	40¢	40¢

They are asking, we understand, to have the 40¢ per lb. specific duty removed, and to this we are greatly opposed.

Since the change in the Tariff last September considerably more orders on these silk striped corset cloths have been received by our firm, and should a change in this tariff item be now made, we feel sure it will, to a great extent, interfere with the quantity of business received in the future.

We are not taking advantage of this specific duty; in fact, our prices are just as low, and in some cases lower on these cloths than what they were prior to September last.

The item as it now reads, prevents the dumping of goods into Canada at prices below their true value.

We would therefore ask that you kindly use your influence to prevent, if possible, any change being made in the above tariff item. "

And a letter of acknowledgement from Sir George Perley, dated April 27th, 1931:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, with regard to the request

of certain corset manufacturers for a change in Tariff Item 561, and to thank you for the same."

Now then, I go back to deal with some correspondence in Exhibit 101, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Did you retain the firm of Thompson, Cote, Burgess & Code, at Ottawa, to make representations to the Government in regard to this matter? A. I believe they did work for us in that capacity.

Q. Yes. Then I have a letter addressed to the Minister of National Revenue, dated April 27th, 1931:

"Dear Mr. Ryckman: Re Wabasso Cotton Co. Ltd.
Tariff Item 561.

"My clients, the above named Company, have heard that an application is being made to have the 40 cent per pound specific duty herein struck off.

This item was amended during the September sitting of Parliament 1930, and the Wabasso Cotton Company desires to have the Tariff item continue as it at present stands.

For your information, I enclose a copy of the Company's letter, dated April 25th, 1931.

I have sent a letter similar to this to the Rt. Honourable the Prime Minister, in his capacity as Minister of Finance."

And then the copy of the Company's letter. It apparently was on Wabasso Cotton Company's stationery:

"THE WABASSO COTTON COMPANY LIMITED,
THREE RIVERS, Que.

April 25th, 1931.

Tariff Item 561.

Tariff item, as amended 22nd September last reads as follows:

	British Pref. Tariff,	Intermediate Tariff	General 6Tariff.
Woven fabrics wholly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic fibres produced by chemical processes, not to contain wool, not including fabrics in chief part by weight of silk, n.o.p...	27½%	40%	45%
and.....per pound,	30¢	40¢	40¢

We understand certain corset manufacturers are pressing the government to have the 40¢ per pound specific duty struck off. This we very strongly oppose, and would ask that you kindly use whatever influence you have, to see that no change is made.

We have not, nor is it our intention, to make use of this specific duty, but wish same as a protective measure only.

Unfortunately, in the past, some firms(of which the Department of National Revenue are familiar) imported goods into Canada at prices below their true value, and according to newspaper report of recent date, one firm has been rather severely dealt with.

If the 40¢ per lb. specific duty is eliminated, there is no question in our mind but that large quantities of goods will be brought into Canada, which

will seriously interfere with the output of our mill.

Since the change in tariff, we have not advanced our prices, and are quoting on the old basis, which goes to show that even though the change in tariff would have enabled us to obtain considerably higher prices we have not taken advantage thereof, but have been accepting orders from our customers on the old basis, and in some cases, lower.

Will you therefore kindly see what you can do re having Tariff Item 561 left as amended in September last."

Now, when you say that you were quoting on the old basis, was it not a fact that these goods were dropping in the general market, in the meantime? A. What do you mean by "Dropping in the General Market"?

Q. The price was dropping. A. In the general markets of the world?

Q. Of the world, yes. A. I would not like to answer that question for you, Mr. McRuer, because I am not sufficiently acquainted with the situation as it was at that date. But I understand that with the general condition of the whole market, these were dropping with all ~~taxxx~~ other cloths.

Q. So that when the Company was suggesting that they had not raised their prices from the figures as they were in 1930, as a matter of fact, if they were keeping pace with the prices in the world market they should have been dropping them? A. Well, the Company does

not say they are dropping them; they say they are quoting on the old basis.

Q. Well, the old basis would be the same as they were in 1930? A. I read that as quoting on the basis they had been quoting on, which I imagine was the basis of cost.

Q. As a matter of fact, these things form a very small part of your business? A. A very small part, but not so small. There were three or four hundred looms on.

Q. All the time? A. Not 12 months in the year because the corset business is not a twelve-month-in-the-year business, but for six months in the year.

Q. One would judge, from reading those letters, that it was pretty nearly going to close up the Wabasso Company? A. Well, I did not write that letter.

Q. Well then, there is a letter dated the 28th of April, acknowledging receipt of the letter, by the Commissioner of Customs, that is, acknowledging receipt of Mr. Cote's letter.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Whose letter?

MR. McRUER: Mr. Cote who signed for Thompson, Cote, Burgess & Code. It would be Senator Cote that signed the letter. And then we have a letter dated the 25th April, 1931, from the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited, to Mr. Ryckman:

"We are informed that a representation has been made to the Government, to have Tariff Item 561, which reads as follows, changed:-

This item reads,	British Pref. Tariff	Intermediate Tariff	General Tariff
Woven fabrics wholly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic fibres produced by chemical processes, not to contain wool, not including fabrics in chief part by weight of silk, n.o.p.	27-1/2%	40%	45%
and .... per pound	30¢	40¢	40¢

We understand they are asking to have the 40¢ per lb. specific duty removed.

Kindly note, we are desirous that no change be made, as the item as at present, prevents godds from being dumped into Canada.

Trusting that our request will receive your favourable consideration."

And there is a letter of acknowledgement by Mr.Ryckman.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then you started into quite a compaign, did you not, of solicitation among the different members of Parliament in regard to the matter?.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is this, now?

MR. McRUER: Still part of the same file, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Do you know Mr. Baribeau?

A. Not personally.

Q. Is his constituency near by? A. It is the

next county.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then I find on the file a letter written by Mr. Baribeau to the Right Honourable R.B. Bennett, dated the 15th May, 1931, in which he is putting forward your case. Although my French is not so good, I think it is in almost identical language of the letter that you had sent to Mr.Cote.

THE COMMISSIONER: Will you please read it, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: I prefer to leave it to your lordship, or to my friend, Mr. Beauregard.

MR. LAJOIE: It is a letter from Mr. Baribeau to the Hon. R.B2 Bennett. It is not a letter from the Company to Mr. Baribeau?

MR. McRUER: It is almost in the identical language.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is on the Departmental file.

M.LANCTOT:

C'est la lettre d'un député au premier ministre, il me semble qu'on devrait respecter cela.

M.le COMMISSAIRE:

Ce sont des dossier publics.

M.LANCTOT.

C'est adressé au Premier Ministre par undéputé Monsieur Baribeau.

M.le COMMISSAIRE:

C'est une lettre qui nous vient des dossier du départemant,c'est public ça.

MLAJOIE:

Alors, le département peut expédier....

Par le COMMISSAIRE:

C'est la correspondance d'un département....

M.LAJOIE: Ils peuvent sortir cela?....

M. LAONCTOT: Quand ils abandonnent le pouvoir ils sont censés reprendre leur rorrespondance.

M.le COMMISSAIRE: Pas cette correspondance là. Il y a les ardhives, un Ministre n'abandonne pas ça, quand une lettre est adressée par un Ministre à sondépartement, c'est pour cela qu'elle reste là. C'est une lettre sur une question publique.

M.LANCTOT:

C'est l'entemdement de la Cour,......

M.E COMMISSAIRE:

Du moment que le Ministre l'a reçue, la mise dans les dossiers du département, dorénavent, c'est une lettre publique, ...

Voulez-vous la lire quelqu'un?

M.René lit la lettre.

C'est une lettre faisant partie de l'exhibit 101, adressée par Monsieur Baribeau à l'Honorable Premier Ministre, l'Hon. R.BBennett.

"Ottawa,le 15 mai 1931.

Honorable R.B.Bennette,
Ministre des Finances,
Ottawa. Ont.

M.le Ministre,

Je suis informé qu'il y a certains manufacturiers faisant application auprès du Gouvernement pour altérer l'item 561 du Tarif amendé le 2 septembre dernier. Cet item lit comme suit:

	Tarif Britainnique Préfentiel	Tarif Intermédiaire.	Tarif Général
Les étoffes tissées en citer ou partiellement de soie artificielle ou de tissus semblables, produites par des opérations chimiques,ne devant pas contenir de laine, sans inclure les étoffes dont la pesanteur est de soie, N.O.P.	27½%	40%	45%
et.................... la, livre	30 ¢	40c/	40¢

Je crois comprendre qu'ils désirent faire enlever le 40 cts par livre de droit spécifique.

Je vous demande bien vouloir prévenir si possible, tout changement,car cette douane spécifique empêche l'importation des marchandises au pays à des prix moindres que ceux du marché.

Si un tel changement prenait effet, la quantité de marchandises ainsi importées, dérangerait sérieusement le nombre de mains employées dans les usines de mon district.

Les manufactureirs n'ont nullement l'intention de se servir de cetta taxe de droit mentionnée, mais ils désirent la conserver comme mesure de protection saulement.

Si les rapports du Département du Revenu National étaient consultés je crois que vous trouveriez que certains manufacturiers ont importé des marchandises au Canada avant le 22 septembre dernier, à des prix plus bas que leurs propre valeur.

Vous remerciant,

Bien à vous,

J. Louis Baribeau.

Député de Champlain. ""

Me. LAJOIE: Quelle date vous avez dit?

M. RENE; 15 mai 1931.

M.le COMMISSAIRE: Est-ce qu'il y a une réponse.

M.René: C'est monsieur McKinnon qui accuse réception.

M.le COMMISSAIRE: Qui est M.McKinnon.

(L'enquête se continue en anglais).

MR. McRUER: Tariff Commissioner, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is referred to Mr. McKinnon, and he acknowledges receipt of it.

MR. McRUER: No, the acknowledgement is not here, but there is a letter from the Hon. Mr. Bennett, to Mr. McKinnon.

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, to Mr. McKinnon?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. This letter is addressed to Mr. McKinnon, or rather to Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Bennett's letter to Mr. McKinnon reads as follows:

"I enclose herewith for your consideration letter received from Mr. J. Louis Baribeau, M.P.? regarding Item #561 of Tariff amended the 22nd of September,"

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then I have some further correspondence between the Wabasso Company and Mr. Barrette. Is his constituency near by too?

A. Itis the one on the other side.

Q. This is a copy of a letter, which is enclosed in Mr. Barrette's letter to the Minister, from the Wabasso Company to Mr. Barrette, dated April 5th, 1931:

"We are informed that there are certain manufacturers applying to the Government for an alteration of Item No. 561 of the Tariff amended on the 22nd of September last.

That item reads as follows:

"Woven fabrics wholly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic fibres produced by chemical processes, not to contain wool, not including fabrics in chief part by weight of silk, n.o.p.

British Preferential Tariff, ...	27½%
and per pound...........	30¢
Intermediate Tariff, ...	40%
and per pound, ...	40¢

General tariff........................ 45%
and per pound, ... 40¢"

We understand that they desire to have the specific duty of 40¢ per pound removed.

We would ask you to be kind enough to use your influence in order to prevent any change, if possible, for that specific duty prevents the importation of goods into the country at prices lower than the market prices.

If such a change was made, the quantity of goods thus imported would seriously affect the number of hands employed in our factory.

, We do not intend at all to take advantage of the duty mentioned, but we desire to keep it as a measure of protection only.

If the reports of the Department of National Revenue were referred to, we think that you would find out that certain manufacturers imported goods into Canada before the 22nd of September last at prices lower than the actual value of the goods."

Then Mr. Barrette writes a letter to the Minister, dated May 7th, 1931:

"I have much pleasure in enclosing herewith copy of a letter from the Wabasso Cotton Co. Would it be possible to do something for that Company, which would double its production if the request is acceded to."

BY MR. McRUER: Q. That has grown into rather large proportions by the time it has got here, has it not, Mr. Whitehead? You would not even go so far as to say that. Then I have a letter from Mr. Sauve, who was post-master General, to Mr. Bennett, dated May 20th, 1931:

"Re Tariff Item 561

It has been represented to me that certain corset manufacturers have asked that Tariff Item 561 be amended by removing the 40 cents per pound specific duty.

This item was amended last September , and the amendment has, I am told, enabled the industry, and more particularly the Wabasso Cotton Company, Limited, to secure a larger part of the market without increasing their prices, in some cases quoting even lower prices.

As you know, the Wabasso Cotton Company have their mills at Three Rivers.

I am writing to you to suggest that it would be advisable not to disturb or amend this Item unless you have some very serious reason indeed to do so."

THE COMMISSIONER: Have you any questions to put to Mr. Whitehead on this file?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then I think we had better wait until tomorrow.

-- The Commission adjourned at 5 P.M. Monday, 30th March, 1936, to resume on Tuesday, 31st March, 1936, at 10 A.M.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,

Commissioner.

A.S. Whiteley, Secretary.

TENTH DAY

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

HON. MR. JUSTICE W.F.A. TURGEON,

Commissioner,

A.S. Whitsley, Secretary.

Appearances:

J.C. McRuer, K.C. and) H. Beauregard, K.C.)	Commission Counsel,
J.F. Lanctot, K.C.,	For Special Committee of Primary Textile Industries,
S.G. Dixon, K.C.,	For Cortaulds Limited,
L.A. Forsyth, K.C.,	For Canadian Celanese Ltd. and Canadian Silk Products Limited.
Francois Lajoie, K.C.,	For the Wabasso Cotton Company Limited.
Hermidas Gariepy,	For the Local Union of the United Textile Workers of America.

-- oOo --

Robert Brydie,
Official Reporter.

Three Rivers, P.Que.
31st, March , 1936

-- On resuming at 10 A.M.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you ready, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

WILLIAM J. WHITEHEAD, EXAMINATION

BY MR. McRUER (resumed):

Q. Mr. Whitehead, I wish to see what the manufacture of those coarse cloths that we were dealing with last night, amounted to, in connection with the whole of your business. In this statement that has been filed, Exhibit 35, an analysis of sales by commodity groups, I see in 1931 the total production of Viscos coarse cloth appears to be 700,948 yards out of a total production for that year of 19,659,251 yards? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1932, corset cloth, - would there be any other kinds of corset cloths that you manufactured other than the mixed rayon and cotton? A. Not at that time. That was under the heading of corset cloth at that time.

Q. I see. Well, the production in 1932 seems to be 700,000 yards, in round figures, out of a total production of 23,500,000, in round figures? A. Yes.

Q. And then in 1933, the production appears to have been 370,000 yards? A. At the time that that came in it was divided up, a portion under the

silk heading.

Q. Well, I am only interested in what would be mixed silk and cotton, or mixed rayon and cotton? A. There would be a portion of that under the 239,000 yards, which would come in there in the same way; in 1933, a portion of the silk corset cloth would come in under the heading of silks.

Q. Yes, we will deal with them one at a time. Under the heading of cotton, we have corset cloth 370,600 yards? A. Yes.

Q. Would that be all cotton, or mixed cotton and rayon? A. It is hard to say, Mr. McAuer, just what that would be because the census of industry change at that time, and the classifications changed. We have given here another item of Jacquard corset cloth; that comes in here.

Q. What is "Jacquard"? A. It is fancy work.

Q. At any rate only 3,000 yards? A. Yes.

Q. And then you say there would be some included in the plain silk? A. In the plain silk, yes.

Q. The total yardage of the plain silk is 239,653? A. Yes.

Q. So that if we add them together we do not get 600,000 out of a total yardage of 24,500,000, in round figures? A. That is right.

Q. And then, in 1934, the amount of corset cloth contained there is 559,500 yards? A. Yes. Q. And the Jacquard corset cloth,

3,800 yards? A. Yes.

Q. and the total of plain silk is 6,900 yards? A. Yes.

Q. So that out of the whole we do not have more than 570,000? A. Yes.

Q. Out of a total yardage of 32,374,000? A. Yes.

Q. Then in 1935, what is the item in that that would include the corset cloth? A. Under the item "Fancies".

Q. "Fancies", I see, 311,476 yards out of a total yardage of 36,840,000? A. Yes. Well, I might file at this point, Mr. McRuer, a chart that is kept by the man in charge of the corset cloth for his own personal use, showing the trend of corset cloths during the period starting in 1928 which gives an absolute picture of the way corset cloths have run up to the present date.

Q. You might explain what you mean by saying "The trend of corset cloths." This chart is headed "Rayon-Production, Consumption and Waste", and "Rayon as warp (production)" is the top line? A. which is the line that interests us.

Q. I see, and what does it purport to show? A. It shows the monthly production, in yards, of corset cloths.

Q. In your factory? A. In our factory, yes.

Q. The monthly production in yards? A. Yes.

Q. I see. Well then, it would not disagree with

the totals that you have given me?   A. It would not disagree with the totals.

Q. I see, so that it is a picture showing how they fluctuate from month to month?   A. Yes.

Then you come down to the present year, it shows that the trend of corset cloths, during the last year, or two years, since May , 1934, has been down to a very small quantity.

Q. So that it is pretty nearly flattened out to nothing now?   A. Not to nothing. It runs about 10,000 yards a month.

Q. Well, it looked very much lower than it was before, anyway.   A. Now, the explanation I can give as to that, is that the style of corset cloth has changed considerably during those years. At the height of the production, as shown in the periods when we were manufacturing the silk stripes, as represented by the sample which Mr. McGuer presented yesterday. Since that time, the style has gone from silk stripes to brocades which are being manufactured and sold at prices which enabled the corset manufacturers to put them in line with cheap garments. These brocades are being manufactured by the Carl Stohn Company and the Montreal Cotton Company. At the same time that the style in material changed with the advent of Lastex the volume of corset cloths decreased enormeously, and as to the available volume, which is split two ways, it is natural that our share

of the production in the style of cloth that we make should be considerably lessened.

Q. All that I am seeking to shew, Mr. Whitehead, by this branch of my examination is, that the manufacture of corset cloth even at its height with you would appear to be a very infinitisimal part of your business? A. In yardage; in value, no.

Q. Well, could you let us have the value to compare it with the total amount of your business? A. I think we can get that for you.

Q. Well, I would like to have that, if you please. and what justification is there, in your view, for having a tariff on corset cloth, or a tariff on mixed rayon and cotton which is nearly twice as much as the tariff on cotton ~~if~~ even if there may only be one or two threads of rayon in the cloth? How is that justified from the point of view of the manufacturer, or the point of view of the producer of cotton goods? A. Well, on the table of yardages which you have it does not appear justified; but at the time that that application was made, and even up to to-day, the value of the cloth itself justifies it as being a high-priced market where you can get volume of sales with a very small yardage.

Q. I do not think you get my point. Under the tariff item, the tariff is probably about twice as much on mixed rayon and cotton as it is on cotton, even though there may be only one or two threads of

rayon;and there are not a great many threads in this sample that we put in here compared with the number of cotton threads. Now, I am talking from your point of view, because your Company went to some trouble to ask this; they brought their influence to bear to keep this tariff item up when a manufacturer of corsets was asking to get it down so that he could import the cloth. Now, I say, how do you justify a high tariff item on mixed cottons? A. Mr. McRuer, did not that manufacturer ask to have the duty brought down, and asked at the same time, if the duty was not brought down to have the duty on the manufactured goods brought up?

Q. That is quite right, but I still have got another man in my mind that we must give consideration to, and that is the consumer who is going to have to pay it all. A. Yes.

Q. When you start applying that doctrine, just let us deal with one thing at a time. Your Company went to some considerable trouble to ask different members of Parliament, and Cabinet Ministers, and even go to the Prime Minister himself - or some one did on your behalf - asking that this tariff item be maintained, and the tariff item that was under consideration was the one that applied to mixed rayon and cotton. Now, how do you justify the high tariff item on mixed rayon and cotton? A. Well, as I said, Mr. McRuer, the value of those cloths to us was very great and, at the same time, we had

400 or 500 looms equipped, or which had been equipped to make that particular cloth; and, as there was a danger of losing that trade, I should imagine that was the reason for making that application.

Q. Well, if we will just forget any reasons; just let us deal with it to-day. Here is a sample of cloth that has some rayon in it but mostly cotton, and I wish you could tell me what proportion of that sample is rayon? A. I would say a quarter.

Q. A quarter of rayon? A. Yes, without counting it.

Q. Yes? It shows pretty well on its face, does it not: the shiny part is rayon and all the rest is cotton? A. Yes.

Q. The back of it shows pretty well all cotton? A. That is the way they weave it, so that the silk is on the face.

Q. Yes. The weft would be of cotton goods? A. All cotton.

Q. The weft would be all cotton, and then can you tell us what proportion of the warp is cotton and what is rayon? A. Yes.

Q. Well now, I want to know what is the underlying principle on which you justify a tariff item equal to all rayon, to a mixture such as that? A. Well I think, Mr. McRuer, you are getting me a little bit out of my depth, because to-day, with the item on which that application was made, this Company

is not so vitally interested in that business as they would be. The parties which are really interested in that connection are the Carl Stohn Company and the Montreal Cotton Company. These companies are equipped and are making the brocade which is represented by the second sample which has taken the place of the silk stripe which is represented by the first sample.

Q. Oh yes, but, Mr. Whitehead, I am not caring so much about whether you take it to-day or the time the solicitations were being made tomade keep the tariff on. I want to know from the point of view of a manufacturer, from the point of view of the managing director of the Wabasso Cotton Company, on what principle you justify the same tariff on that article as you would on pure rayon? A. I would justify it as a portion of our production.

Q. Well, a portion of your production, but why not take it the other way? Why not have the tariff item on cotton applied to the mixture instead of the higher one? A. Well, Mr. McRuer, it makes it rather difficult to answer. In the Customs Department they take their particular ruling; they take their particular section and they do not break it down into various items; they cover it under the one general item. The corset cloth item, it is questionable whether on those cloths, that particular cloth that you have before you, whether we would

demand the protection which they did in 1932 or 1928, whatever it was.

Q. Well, I am getting along. Then, your attitude would be that these could very well be modified? A. As far as this Company is concerned, if we lost all that woven stripe to-day we would not care.

Q. I see, all right? A. Our chart shows it means nothing to us.

Q. Just going back to the old condition, whether it means nothing to you or not, I am just reading a letter prepared by yourselves which sets out the tariff item; the tariff item as amended on the 22nd of September last , reads as follows:

> "Woven fabrics wholly or in part of artificial silk or similar synthetic fibres produced by chemical processes, not to contain wool, not including fabrics in chief part by weight of silk, n.o.p.
>
> British preferential Tariff 27½%
> and per pound, ... 30¢
>
> Intermediate Tariff, ... 40%
> and per pound .... 40¢
>
> General Tariff, ... 45%
> and per pound, ... 40¢"

That is part of Exhibit 101, and is dated April 5th, 1931. Now, whether you are producing these cottons n volume, assuming that you were producing them in volume, on what principle do you say that the higher rate should apply because there may be a few threads

of rayon in it? Is it fair to the public? A. Well, the only principle I can see is, that if it is not fair to the public then the Tariff Department ought to break down their items a little more thoroughly and group these things so that they can take out one particular article such as a corset cloth from the general number of artificial silk items.

Q. Well, I am not talking about a particular article as a corset cloth. I am talking about an article that may have one thread of rayon in it, and yet at the same time it gets the benefit of the higher tariff, and I want to know the justification you have for that, as the Managing Director of the Wabasso Cotton Company; what would justify that principle, in any way at all? A. I am sure I don't know, Mr. McRuer.

Q. Well, can you, as managing Director of the Wabasso Cotton Company justify that principle in any way? A. No, Mr. McRuer, I cannot .

Q. All right, then. A. My own personal opinion is that the items should be broken down into more detail than they actually are.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. But you did not want them put down; you wanted the present situation maintained? A. They maintained the present situation of the whole group at tht time.

Q. That is what you wanted? A. It is hard for me to say what is wanted because I had nothing

to do with the Company in that particular at the time. I am only speaking of to-day, as Mr. McRuer has brought me to to-day's time.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Mr. Aird was Manager at that time? A. Yes.

Q. And he took quite a leading part in it? A. Yes.

Q. So we will probably have an examination of Mr. Aird in due course? A. Yes, because he is manufacturing this type of cloth himself.

Q. At any rate, Mr. Whitehead, from your point of view you cannot see why that policy should prevail? A. I can see no reason why that item of corset cloth should not be taken out of the general artificial silk tariff.

Q. I am not confining it to corset cloth. There are any number of cloths that have mixed rayon and silk, according to some information I have, articles with probably just two or three threads of rayon in them, yet they all enjoy the higher tariff. You agree with me, that it does not appear to be quite fair the way it is? A. As I say, I cannot see any reason why that item should not be taken out of the general artificial silk tariff.

Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, you seem to have this filed.

THE COMMISSIONER: What would you call that, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: This is a chart showing the monthly production, consumption and waste in rayon, from the

years 1928 to 1936. It is in two parts.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 103.

EXHIBIT 103: Two charts showing production, consumption and waste in rayon 1928 to 1936.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, when this speaks of rayon, of course, you did have some other things other than corset cloths? A. Yes. You can see where this has gone down to zero; that is when they dropped off altogether.

Q. Oh, I see. The top line is the corset cloths? A. The corset cloth line.

Q. The second line? A. If we look at the other chart, Mr. McRuer, it will explain it better.

Q. Well, for the purpose of the record, the top line is rayon as warp, and then the second, which is the red line, rayon as warp (pounds). What does that cover? A. That just covers the total weight; the top line is yardage; the red line, second line, is weight.

Q. I see, and then the third line, which is a purple line is rayon as filling? A. Which covers the line of cotton mixtures for dress goods trade.

Q. Yes, and then the green line, rayon filling waste, in pounds? A. That is a mill record only.

Q. Well now, one or two things more in connection with your correspondence that you produce. In your file appears what I think is a brief, or a copy of a brief submitted to the Government, in February, 1931,

on behalf of several textile companies whose names appear at the foot of the brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is this Company one of them?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I notice the Wabasso Cotton Company, and the Shawinigan Cotton Company both appear on that brief. That comes from your files, does it, Mr. Whitehead? A. Yes, Mr. McRuer.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 104.

EXHIBIT 104: Brief, dated 5th Feb. 1931,

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: It is addressed to the Right Hon. R.B. Bennett, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, dated the 5th February, 1931.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, do you know anything about the preparation of this brief, Mr. Whitehead? A. No, Mr. McRuer, nothing.

Q. You do not know who prepared it? A. No, I know nothing about it. I might be able to give you an idea if you will tell me what it is about.

Q. Well, it starts off:

> "On the 25th August, 1930, the cotton industry presented for your consideration a tariff schedule that was considered necessary to enable the industry to regain a portion of the home market which had been lost due, generally, to the periodical reductions in the cotton schedule during the past twenty years and the numerous drawback items for home consumption. The

industry greatly appreciated the action taken during the emergency session of Parliament in September, which was undoubtedly of great assistance to the majority of the manufacturers."

Now, I do not intend to go through this all in detail. If you did not have any part in preparing it, then I will find out ultimately who did prepare it.

A. I understand it was a brief that was prepared for the regular sitting of the Government after the emergency session which they held.

Q. This sort of suggests to patch up the holes through which a little something might be trickling through? A. Well, if you want to put it that way.

Q. Oh, I would like most of all, Mr. Whitehead, if you can help me. However, that is a copy of the brief, or of the document that was submitted on the 25th August, 1939, on behalf of the Cotton industry. Would there be one of those on your files?

A. Not on our files, Mr. McRuer.

XXX Q. It says on the 25th August.

THE COMMISSIONER: That should be in Ottawa.

MR. McRUER: It should be there, yes. I will have enquiries made to find out. I had asked, as a matter of fact, for any such things, but I have not got them all yet. There were a great many documents that had to be gone through, and I think the officials there had not come on to it yet.

THE COMMISSIONER: You mean the Department of Finance?

MR. McRUER: Yes, I should think so. It was the Department of National Revenue that was searching for it, but no doubt it was in the Department of Finance, or is in the Department of Finance, because it is addressed to the Hon. R.B. Bennett, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

BY MR. McRUER; Q. At any rate you have nothing to do with this? A. Absolutely.

Q. And we can, no doubt, find out who had? A. Yes.

Q. I show you copy of a letter dated September 19th, 1930 to the Rt. Hon. R.B. Bennett? A. Yes.

Q. And that comes from your file? A. Yes, sir.

Q. It is apparently right after the Budget was brought down in the Emergency Session of Parliament, in September, 1930? A. I believe so.

Q. It reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Bennett:

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing to you, on behalf of our Company, our appreciation of the assistance you have rendered to the textile industries of Canada, through the changes in the Customs Tariff, as announced in your budget speech of this afternoon.

These, together with a fair application of the Dumping Act, as reported in the Press of this morning, should make it possible for the

Cotton Industry to greatly increase their output in the near future, thus giving employment to a large number of operators who are at the present time without work."

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you putting that in, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 105. What is the date of it?

MR. McRUER: September 16th, 1930.

EXHIBIT 105: Copy of letter dated Sept. 16, 1930, to Hon. R.B. Bennett from Wabasso Cotton Co.

Q. Now, when one examines Exhibit No. 76, which is a list showing the numbers of employees by years since 1917, it does not quite appear that these fond hopes were justified in putting back to work a lot of men who were out of work at that time.

In 1930, you had 1637; in 1931, 1682; in 1932, 1625; in 1933, 1530? A. Yes, but these men---

THE COMMISSIONER: What about 1929?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. In 1929 you had 2210; in 1928, 2450; in 1927, 2200; in 1926, 1879, and in 1925, 1867. You see what I am getting at, Mr. Whitehead, is that representations were made to the Government, that if we keep these tariffs we will put men to work who are not working now? A. Well, that was not a false representation, Mr. McRuer.

MR. McRUER: Oh, I am not suggesting that, Mr. Whitehead. A. Although your figures do not show

it, actually these 1600 men which you refer to were on two and three days a week at the time the representation was made.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Well then, was their time extended after that? A. They went on to full time.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Then, let us take it on wages paid and see how it works out.

In 1926, according to Exhibit 75, your wages were $1,043,000.

In 1927, your wages were $1,316,000.

In 1928, your wages were $1,527,000.

In 1929, your wages were $1,374,000.

In 1930, your wages were $1,096,000.

In 1931, your wages were $1,106,000.

In 1932, your wages were $1,036,000.

In 1933, your wages were $992,000,

In 1934, your wages were $1,160,000; and in 1935 your wages were $971,000.

So that taking it on wages paid -- A. Yes, but you have got to compare the wages of the people employed at the same time.

Q. That is what I am getting at, that the wages - and you agreed with me yesterday - were scaled down; in the meantime men were given more jobs for the same amount of money. Your statement shows that the production went up and wages went down, and what I am getting at is, that although the Government were led to believe that this policy was going to put

more men to work and that more wages were going to be paid, but neither more wages were paid nor were more men put to work? A. On the face of it, the figures would lead one to assume that to be true, but from the mill end of it again I am just as convinced now, that if it had not been for that protection which the Government did give us at that time you would have seen a very much greater drop in both.

Q. Oh, well, that is a different proposition. I am taking the proposition that was put to the Government as a positive one, not a negative one, and that you will save our lives if you do this, and that we are going to do something for you if you do it, that is the xxxxx two propositions, and the one that was put to the Government, as shown by the correspondence, was that you were going to do something for the country if you got this concession. Now, as far as this Company is concerned, unless you have some other explanation which you want to make, we will have to leave it there? A. Well, except that we have done something for the country.

MR. McRUER: I will file this as a new exhibit. Those letters are from the Company's files.

THE COMMISSIONER: What are they, something new?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. They are from your files? A. Yes.

MR. McRUER: They are copies of letters to the

Hon. Arthur Sauve, and letters in reply. I do not think I shall read them all in detail, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 106. They have to do with the Tariff?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is the period?

MR. McRUER: There are two in September, 1930, and the remainder are February and April, 1931.

EXHIBIT 106: Letters and copies of letters, to and from the Hon. Arthur Sauve,

BY MR. McRUER: Now, I have one other letter that I want to get some light on, if I can. It is dated the 1st of September, 1930, addressed to Mr. A.O. Dawson, of Canadian Cottons, Limited. Who would be the author of that letter? A. Aird.

Q. That is Mr. Aird, is it? A. Yes.

Q. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Dawson,

"I received your message through Mr. Tolmie on Friday afternoon of last week.

I would be glad indeed to learn if you are successful in arranging a meeting with Mr. Cahan this week.

I understand the Special Session has been called for the 8th."

You don't know anything about that? A. No, I know nothing about that, Mr. McRuer.

Q. Well, we will be seeing Mr. Aird some time, no doubt.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you putting it in?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 107.

EXHIBIT 107: Letter from the Company to A.O. Dawson, dated Sept. 1, 1930.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is a letter from the Company to whom?

MR. McRUER: To A.O. Dawson, Canadian Cottons, Limited.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I asked you to produce the brief that was filed with the Tariff Board in 1927 by the Wabasso Cotton Company. This is a copy of it. A. I believe that is a copy.

Q. Yes, this is a brief filed with the Tariff Board in 1927? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 108.

EXHIBIT 108: Brief filed with Tariff Board, October, 1927.

MR. McRUER: My lord, Mr. Lajoie draws my attention to the letter in this brief, Exhibit 19, from which I read a short statement about the Wabasso business, and that that is dated on the front of it, 1910. It is obviously a document that was published about that time, so there need be no confusion about it; there is just a passage that I want to ask you about, Mr. Whitehead, and I probably should have asked your Father yesterday, and that is, a statement made at page 7 of this brief:

"Our cash and actual property, real and personal,

is at present more than equal to our outstanding stock and bonds." That would be about correct to-day too.

THE COMMISSIONER: Say that again, please.

MR. McRUER: Our cash and actual property, real and personal, is at present more than equal to our outstanding stock and bonds.

THE WITNESS: I think that is true to-day, Mr. McRuer. The financial statement shows it.

Q. To bring this Company then up to date, we have it start off with the only cash resources that it gets being from the issue of bonds? A. Yes.

Q. And then they build their building and they increase their plant from time to time as they go along, so that to-day, with the increased capitalization, their cash and machinery and real estate amounts to more than their outstanding capital stock of the bonds and all their liabilities.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, their assets exceed their liabilities.

MR. McRUER: Their balance sheet shows that their assets exceed their liabilities, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. And then they have paid over $1,000,000 in dividends? A. That is correct.

Q. And, in addition to that, the capital stock that is shown in the balance sheet, or any capital stock that in the first place had been purchased for cash - we have had that. A. You have had the

exact breakdown of that whole thing.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, we have had the figures.

BY MR. McRUER: Now, Mr. Whitehead, in respect to the costs of these articles --

THE COMMISSIONER: What articles?

MR. McRUER: That are attached here; they are samples of articles that are produced by this Company.

THE COMMISSIONER: Attached to what, to one of the exhibits?

MR. McRUER: No, this has not been put in as an exhibit yet, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is this the cost of production?

MR. McRUER: The cost of production, yes, my lord, and that is the exhibit that your lordship, I think, directs shall be held.

THE COMMISSIONER: It is an exhibit displaying the cost of production.

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 109.

EXHIBIT 109: Statement of Company's cost of production.

THE COMMISSIONER: Now, are you going to examine Mr. Whitehead on it now?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord.

MR. LANCTOT: Will there be a note made in the record that the examination on these cost prices are, for the time being, to be privileged.

THE COMMISSIONER: I will dispose of that question a little later on.

MR. LACTOT: It will be noted?

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I have these different samples that are contained in this Exhibit, No. 14, starting from 1 to 13, and I will deal with them in their numbers. Look at No. 1, please.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. McRuer, do you intend to examine Mr. Whitehead now exhaustively on this whole topic of the cost of production?

MR. McRUER: Oh yes, at least as far as I can go with it. There may come a time when I know more about it and I may then ask Mr. Whitehead to come back.

MR. LAJOIE: I would like to renew at this time, my lord, the objection I have already made.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right, you object then to this Exhibit, that it should not be allowed to be filed at the present time?

MR. LAJOIE: At the present time, yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: As I intimated yesterday, I am withholding my ruling because there will be other companies with their exhibits coming along, and I will dispose of the whole question at once, probably in Montreal.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, the first sheet that we have here, is a sort of an index, is it? A. It is the key.

Q. The key to your system of costing? A. Yes.

Q. And the letters that appear opposite the different matters indicate the letters that appear subsequently in the costs as set up? A. Yes.

Q. Well now, look at No. 1; we have to sort of follow this key together. The first item is the cost of cotton at 10 cents; what is your manner of arriving at that? Is that a basic cost that you put in for all costing purposes, and then add later on the difference between 10, whether it is over or below? A. Yes.

Q. I notice at the bottom you have "Cotton cost 13.83 cents add to base $1.34? A. 1.34 cents.

Q. Oh yes, I see. Well now, the first column on this article shows a cost of 14.38 then it is all summarized; is that a yard? A. A yard.

Q. And for what grade of article? A. You mean the type of material.

Q. Yes, that is in the weight, is it? A. That is in the weight.

Q. Then under the column headed "memo", there are certain figures #1, equals 4 End Wale," what does that mean?

A. That is dealing with a pique cloth in which the pique is made up of 4 end wales, or a 6 or an 8 end wale, the rib is a 4 or 6 or 8.

Q. What does an end wale mean? A. So many ends of cotton in that rib which is called the wale.

Q. Oh, I see. That would be so many threads?

A. Yes, so many threads.

Q. For each one of those ribs? A. Yes.

Q. In other words, I suppose, it determines the size of the rib? A. It determines the size of the rib, yes.

Q. And No. 2 has a six end wale, and No. 3 has an 8 end wale? A. Yes.

Q. And then you have:

"For colours add:- Commercial Pastel ½; for dark ½; is that cents? A. Cents, yes.

Q. You add that to the 14.39? A. Yes.

Q. For instance, commercial pastel would be? A. 15.89.

Q. Well, the dark would be 15.89? A. Yes, excuse me, 14.89 commercial.

Q. Commercial, yes, and the dark would be 15.89? A. Yes.

Q. And Vat, pastel 2 cents, dark 3 cents? A. Yes.

Q. That is, you add it to this basic price of 14.39? A. Yes.

Q. "Creased and rolled, add a half". What does that mean? A. That is when it is wound up on a board for counter trade.

Q. You charge them a cent more for that? A. Yes.

Q. And then "printed" add three cents". That is printed in different designs? A. Yes.

Q. And for"grey deduct 1.65 cents,"? A. Yes.

Q. This sample that we have here is dyed from the grey; that is all there is done to that, is it?

A. Well, it goes through the bleaching process and eventually is dyed.

Q. Oh, I see. In addition to the dying there is a bleaching on top of the grey? A. Bleaching and finishing.

Q. So that the grey is 1.83 cents less than--- A. 1.83 cents less, yes.

Q. Well now, there are two or three items that I am interested in this. You have given me the cost sheets from 1929 until 1933 on this article, and in 1929 the spinning wages appear to be 1.05? A. 1.5 cents.

Q. Well, there is a dollar sign there? A. The 1-1-2-3-4 are in dollars per pound.

Q. Dollars per pound. Well, how do you convert them later on, by adding them up and bringing them into yards? A. By changing the weight from the pound to the yard.

Q. Well, that is just added on, is it not? A. Yes, but it is a conversion; it is a conversion afterwards into yardage. It changes here from 4.75 to 7.32; you see the total cut per 60 yards is 4.75, that is $4.75.

Q. Oh, I see, it is converted half way down the page from lumps to yards? A. Yes.

Q. Now, will you tell me that the $4.75 represents? A. 60 yards of cloth.

Q. That is the cost of 60 yards of cloth going through these operations - spinning, spooling, warping,

slashing, drying and dying; weavers' wages, general wages, weaving; expenses weaving?   A. Yes.

Q. And that is the total cost down to the end of this?   A. Yes.

Q. And that is in what you call lumps, a lump being 60 yards?   A. 60 yards.

Q. Then, I want to go back and compare these items of wages. No. 2 is spinning wages; that was 1.05 per sixty yards?   A. Per sixty yards.

Q. In 1929?   A. Yes.

Q. And in 1930 it was 1.05 per sixty yards? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1931 it was 78 cents per sixty yards? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1932 it was 78 cents per sixty yards? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1933 it was 64 cents per sixty yards? A. Yes.

Q. In 1934 it was 64 cents per sixty yards? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1935 it was 47 cents per sixty yards?   A. Yes.

Q. So that on this article the wage cost per sixty yards dropped from 1.05 to 47 cents, for this one item of spinning.   A. Mr. McRuer,--

Q. Is that a fact, first, then explain it afterwards?   A. Let me explain it first. We are going to get ourselves rather complicated in this particular method of going through costs, because if you notice during that period the style changed, and as we go down

through the year with various costs, regardless to any change in wages, or anything else in the period—these cloths change practically every year, or every two or three years, so that it is almost impossible to follow them down through any period at all.

Q. Well, I have gone through them all, but they all seem to come out in the same way as far as wages are concerned? A. They do; you gradually cheapen down your cloths at the same time, too.

Q. Well now, what have you got to say about the change in style of this particular item between 1929 and 1935? A. Well, I think if you take the cotton, you take there 6 hank roving and 8 hank roving.

Q. All right, we will just take that. It appears until 1932 to have stayed at about the same? A. But the counts of yarn have changed during that period, although the roving is the same; the counts of yarn have changed from 27's to 36's and 29's and 34's.

Q. Changed from 27 and 36's to 29's and 34's? A. Yes.

Q. That seems to be about the only change there. What is the effect of that change? A. Then we drop in the last year to 1.25 warp, and weft, quite a drop; so that the construction is entirely different construction than it was when you first tried to compare your costs, although cloth is being sold for the same purpose on the same market.

Q. Yes? A. So that in changing your construction you are automatically changing your spinning content per 60 yards.

Q. Well, it is a coarser yarn now than it was last year? A. It is a coarser yarn with a lot of processes taken out.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Less spinning? A. Less spinning, yes. In to-day's operations, my lord, there are three processes left out entirely in the preparation of the yarn.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Well now, Mr. Whitehead, weaving; let us see how the weaving goes. On this article, the weaver's wages and general wages for weaving, they are taken together, and they amounted to $2.27? A. Yes.

Q. For sixty yards? A. Yes.

Q. In 1929? A. Yes.

Q. And in 1930 it amounted to 2.27? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Q. The same thing?

MR. McRUER: Oh, yes. In 1931 it was 1.26.

THE COMMISSIONER: 1.26?

MR. McRUER: Yes, my lord. In 1932 it was 1.23, and in 1933 it was 98, and in 1934 it was 83; and 1935 it was 74 cents.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, let us go back then to the year 1930; it was 2.27, and go to the year 1931 when it was 1.26? A. You have there a change in style of construction; Y-37 M, and you also have

a change in the number of looms per weaver from 4 to 6.

Q. Well, just let us deal with construction first, before we deal with the number of looms per weaver. In 1930, the number of picks 96 x 68; the number of ends 3580? A. Yes.

Q. Reeds 46? A. 46 inches, yes.

Q. Now, has the spread anything to do with it? A. That has nothing to do with it.

Q. Well now, in 1931, the picks were 96 x 64? A. 4 ends down.

Q. ends 3580, which is the same? A. Excuse me, 4 picks down.

Q. 4 picks down? A. Yes.

Q. Well, 4 picks down would not account for a drop of one dollar per sixty yards in the weaving, would it? A. Yes, including the greater number of looms per weaver.

Q. Yes. I am coming to the greater number of looms per weaver? A. But your production is calculated on the number of picks per inch.

Q. Well, the real thing ix here was that you had given a man six looms instead of four; that is what cut down the cost? A. No, it was the cut of the four picks.

Q. Well, next year it was the same, and then the next year it was down from 1.26 to 98? A. And there was a drop of 8 more picks.

Q. Yes, and a number of looms per weaver remained the same? A. Yes, and the next year it was the same, and then we get down to 1935 when it is down to xxx .74 with 64 x 60; the number of picks --

Q. Are up? A. But the ends are down.

Q. Yes, the ends are down? A. The looms have been increased from 6 to 12.

Q. Well now, on your selling price of this article, -- in October 14th, 1929, the selling price appears to have been, -- what is this; in 1930 it is listed, white, to wholesalers, 18¾; is that 18¾ per yard? A. Per yard.

Q. To manufacturers 18¾ and to Eaton's 18¾ a yard? A. Yes.

Q. Now, I cannot understand. On your cost sheet of the 16th October, 1930, the cost is shown as 25.62 cents a yard, and yet you are selling it at 18¾, and as low as 18½ cents a yard? A. Well, I tried to explain to you during these years, that losses were being made.

Q. Well now, you don't mean to tell us that you are losing on the manufacture of this article 7 cents a yard? A. I certainly do.

Q. Well, I am going though them all to try and find out where you made any money.

By THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Where are they sold, Mr. Whitehead, in Canada? A. In Canada, yes.

Q. You do not have any dumping abroad? A. No, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. How are these cost records made up? A. They are made up on the performance. The cost is established on the actual performance of the previous year.

Q. Yes. What do you mean by that?

(Page 1360 follows)

A. The actual cost to the mill is worked out in the books of the company and is calculated back into the cost per yard of each style which gives us the actual cost of production as near as it is possible to get it for each style on that period of the year. Now, at every three month period subsequently the costs are corrected to any trend which they may have taken up or down, but we are always working on the period basis.

Q. That is, you fix your costs, present costs, on what it costs you last year? A. On what it cost us at the end of December.

Q. Are you using that sheet, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: No.

Q. To take the next one, or the next year, 1931, the total cost per yard appears -- shows at 15.76¢ per yard while the selling price as listed on your statement shows 17¢, 16½ and 17¢. A. We made a profit there.

Q. Yes, you made a profit on it that year. A. That was the year I took over.

Q. Well, that looks alright; that is the year that the labour cost dropped from 2.27 to 1.28, that A. And the construction changed at the same time. In other words, we cheapened down the construction until we got to a point where we could sell the cloth at a profit.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. When did you get to that point? A. In 1930 -- 1931.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. That was 1931 according to the

statement here; then we come to 1932 and the cost shown here is 15.85 and your selling price is 14½ and 15? A. Yes.

Q. Selling below cost again there? A. Below cost again.

Q. Now, I would not have thought that a Canadian manufacturer would have done that.

MR.LAJOIE: Which year, Mr. McRuer?

THE COMMISSIONER: 1931.

MR. McRUER: That is 1932.

THE COMMISSIONER: The last one was 1932?

MR. McRUER: The last one was 1932, yes, my lord. 1933, the cost is 14.73 and the selling price is 15-3/4, 13 to 15½ and 15-3/8. 1934 the cost is 15.08, the selling price 15½, 15 and 15-7/8. And 1935 the cost 14.39, the selling price 14 to 14½, 12, and 14. Can you figure how much a yard you ought to make on an article to make money on it? A. We should make the actual cost figure at the bottom of the sheet which allows for the necessary profit.

Q. Oh, I see.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You add the item for necessary profit to the cost? A. It is in the cost.

MR. McRUER: That is the way you do it.

THE COMMISSIONER: We are all wrong.

MR. McRUER: We don't know whether we are going or coming now because we don't know what you have added in to the costs for profit.

A. It is 4%.

Q. 4% on what? A. 4% on the capital.

Q. 4% on the capital; you mean on what capital, the paid in capital? A. The capital of the company.

Q. You mean you have added 4% on to this bonus stock for costs? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Pardon me, a moment; you do not included that -- A. It is included in the expenses.

Q. Administration expenses? A. In the administration at the bottom, your lordship.

Q. Administration expenses includes that? A. Yes.

Q. As an item of the costs? A. Yes.

MR. McRUER: Well,--

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Now, how much do you say you added? A. 4%.

Q. 4% on what? A. Of the capital of the company.

Q. Well, that is on the bulk cost? A. Yes.

Q. How do you divide it down to yards? A. It is divided down through the costs department until it is segregated down to a yard of cloth in percentages.

Q. You take a sum equivalent to 4% of your capital and you spread that over your whole cost of production? A. Yes.

Q. Then you bring it down per yard? A. Yes.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. You include in that, of course, interest on your bonds? A. Yes.

Q. And taxes and everything of that sort?

A. Yes.

Q. Then you take 4% of your capital stock of the company? A. Yes.

Q. Now, I wonder how you get the item that ought to be added to wages, weavers' wages, how much you ought to add to weavers' wages on this particular article for its share of the 4% of the capital stock of the company? A. I don't understand, Mr. McRuer.

Q. Well, just take -- would your lordship give me what AA-2 is on that?

THE COMMISSIONER: AA-2, spinning.

MR. McRUER: Spinning wages. The item for spinning wages we have on here in 1930 was 73¢ per 60 yards? A. Yes.

Q. How do they get the proper amount to include in the 73¢ of the 4% on the capital stock of the company? A. I don't understand just what you are trying to say.

Q. That item of 73¢ is an item of cost? A. Actual cost.

Q. It is an item of actual cost; in it must be some portion, some share of the 4% on the capital stock that is added in that cost? A. No.

Q. It isn't? A. No.

Q. Where is the 4% added on this?

THE COMMISSIONER: Administration expenses.

THE WITNESS: It comes in overhead.

THE COMMISSIONER: DD-1.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. You bring it in there?

A. That is where it is brought in. That is where. You see in your sales price we are below the full cost. We are selling at a price which comes up to that particular line and what is lost is lost in the overhead charges.

Q. Well, if the 4% is taken in the overhead it would remain the same always, wouldn't it?
A. No, because it is a percentage of the cost. It varies with the cost of the cloth.

Q. 4% of your capital stock? A. It is a percentage which varies with the cost of the cloth the same way as your other administration charges are worked out in percentages; your selling expenses and everything are worked out in percentages and the cost per yard of cloth varies with each yard of cloth.

Q. Who is it that does all this?
A. We have a cost accountant.

Q. I don't suppose -- I think ultimately we will probably have to examine him on this.
A. You will. You will eventually have to examine him carefully on that point.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Is he here in Three Rivers? A. Yes.

Q. Who is he? A. Mr. Roberts.

BY MR. MCRUER: Q. Did you submit your costs to the Tariff Board in 1935? A. Yes.

Q. Were these the figures you submitted?
A. Not these particular ones, but figures prepared exactly the same as these are prepared.

Q. You didn't submit these samples? A. No, because they asked for certain samples to submit.

Q. Were any of the samples included in these? A. Yes.

Q. Some of them are the same? A. Yes.

Q. Now, at that hearing there was a statement of costs submitted on behalf of the industry as a whole by a cost accountant from the United States? A. Yes.

Q. Did your man go up and tell them about Tabasso cloth? A. No, a representative of the industry came and examined our costs at the mill.

Q. Had you made up a statement of costs before he came there? A. No, he made up his own statement.

Q. Is this the product of that man's work or is it something you kept over a period of years yourself? A. This is our standard cost sheet as kept over a period of years by ourselves, and on which we sell. His system was an entirely different system which he had himself and he made it uniform for the whole industry for the presentation before the Tariff Board.

Q. It is a little difficult for me to understand how there could be a uniform statement of costs for the whole industry. A. It is prepared on exactly the same basis putting your charges in in exactly the same places and in proper proportions, what charges are put in and are not put in. The

distribution of depreciation and overhead and taxes and everything else, are distributed in various ways by various mills.

-- Adjourned at 11.35 a.m. until 11.45 a.m.

-- On Resuming.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, I want to deal with one or two more of these examples with you, Mr. Whitehead, and I think I shall leave the remainder to some time when we can examine Mr. Roberts. A. There is one point, Mr. McRuer; when you deal with those charges such as the ones you get with bonds and profits and that sort of thing they come, as you notice, under such a heading. When you take your -- compare with your selling prices of the various periods the difference between the selling price and the actual full cost is taken off of these last four items, which means that the loss is taken in your overhead of the company and not in your cotton and your wages.

Q. Well, let us see; that means then, if you sell below cost you had already paid your costs of manufacturing it. Therefore the loss is being taken some other place? A. We have two actual costs. We have what we call factory costs, which is that figure, that particular figure here. That is the actual outlay in cash --

Q. Just so that we may get it on the record; looking at item number one, which is the blue sample, and the figure that you see referring to factory cost is 9.87¢; that is right? A. Yes.

Q. Alright; then, under the heading DD you have four items which come to $2.82? A. Yes.

Q. And they are administration expenses, selling, interest on bonds and interest on investment. Now, the items on this particular article for the 4th of September, 1935 are administration expenses .69? A. Yes.

Q. Selling .65? A. Yes.

Q. Interest on bonds .62? A. Yes.

Q. Interest on investment .86? A. Yes.

Q. And interest on investment is interest on -- A. On the money in the company.

Q. Is that/the 4% of the capital stock -- A. It is interest on the whole capital, on the whole money that is in the company as represented by the land, buildings, machinery --

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. By what? A. As represented by the lands, buildings and/machinery.

Q. That is, the physical assets? A. Yes, and the amount of money in circulation and the accounts receivable, etc.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. At 4%? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. And the stock? A. The stock is in that, of course; the stock is represented by the physical assets, the value of the stock is represented by the physical assets of the company.

MR. LANCTOT: No par value shares.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

THE WITNESS: On that particular sheet at that

particular date, which is September, 1935, you will see that we sold cloth as low as 12¢.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Yes. A. Which means that we only got a portion of these charges.

Q. Yes; the others had been paid out, of course, the 9.87 had been paid out in manufacture? A. We got our 9.87; which is the actual cash in cotton and wages and we got a portion of our fixed charges. We didn't get them all. We only got a portion. We got our bond interest and a portion of the selling expenses and administration expenses.

Q. What is included in selling expenses? A. It is salesmen's salaries, travelling, and warehouse costs.

Q. How was it these would change to such an extent? Take for instance DD-1, which is selling expenses, I think. In 1929 it is shown as $1.71 and in 1930 $1.71 or I think it should be 1.71¢. 1931, 1.8¢, and it remained at that in 1932. 1933 is .73¢, 1934 is .73¢ and 1935 is .69¢. A. Selling expenses are taken on a percentage of the total sales, the total production or total sales in yards so that as your sales in yards increase so your percentage per yard decreases.

Q. Now, do you agree with me that it would be fair, in order to determine what changes there have been in regard to the wage earner to consider the percentage that the wages bear to the selling price in the different years; that is, how much the wage earner got out of the selling price in one year and how much

he got in another year, and compare them in that way? A. Yes.

Q. Well, we can figure that from these items ourselves. A. While these charges which you referred to later on actually have to appear in your cost sheet it is not necessary that you have to get them in order to sell, and the policy of the company, as has been said on a great many occasions, and I think has already been said here once before,-- that policy has been to keep the mill in constant operation even though we only get cotton and wages in our selling price.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. In what? A. Out of that we only get cotton and wages in our selling price.

Q. That is, you have to give up your investment? A. We give up, as the principle that has been adopted is that it is cheaper to keep operating. Your loss is less in operating than it is with a stopped mill.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Now, take any year --

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Pardon me a moment; is that going on now, by the way? A. Yes, my lord.

Q. How long has it been going on? A. It has been going on to my knowledge since I have taken over.

Q. That is in 1932? A. 1932.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Take, for example, 1929 on this sample number two, a white one; the cost there appears to have been 18.92¢ a yard yet the selling

price that year shows as 13.14? A. Yes, even as low as 13.

Q. Oh yes, that is 13 to 14, isn't it? A. Yes.

Q. Not 13.14? A. Yes.

Q. That seems to be a terrific difference that year? A. That, Mr. McRuer, is what I have tried to point out to you on previous occasions that the mechanization of the industry was absolutely necessary in order to keep up, in order to keep in business. Actually these prices at 13 to 14¢ were competitive prices being quoted whereas our costs were showing 19.2. If the industry had not gone into mechanization there would be no industry. By mechanizing you will see, I think, that the price to-day is down to 11½¢. The loss from the cost has been considerably reduced to that level.

Q. In 1931 your cost on this article shows 13.83 and the selling price 10½? A. The margin has already been reduced two cents.

Q. 1932 and 1933, there seems to be no record of those? A. We went on what we call standard warps and we have no record.

Q. In 1935 the cost is 13.6 and the selling is 11½. Now, there seems to be a change there between 1931 and 1935 from six looms to 50 looms? A. And a corresponding change in cotton content and spinning costs.

Q. Does that mean that a man who would be

looking after six looms in 1921 has now fifty looms by 1935 on this article? A. Automatic.

Q. That is what it means; when you say six looms it means six looms to a man? A. Six looms to a weaver.

Q. And fifty looms, fifty looms the weaver? A. Fifty looms to a weaver. Actually when you speak of looms to a weaver, my lord, it is not quite as it appears on the face. In the old days of six looms to a weaver the weaver had to do every operation in connection with that loom. She had to clean it, she had to see that the bobbins were changed in the shuttle and keep her loom running. To-day her only work is to keep the loom running with a little cleaning at the end of the week.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. It is more automatic. A. The other jobs such as cleaning and battery hands are all done by a lower class of help so that the weaver is engaged purely and simply in weaving instead of doing a lot of additional work.

MR. McTAGUE: I think, my lord, I will reserve examination in regard to these costs to some time in the future; probably we can examine Mr. Roberts on them. That is one special matter we will have to go into a great deal.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: You mean examine him in Montreal?

MR. McTAGUE: Yes, we might examine him in Montreal. Exhibit 77; Mr. Whitehead reminds me I

have asked him about why the wages had gone down and the salaries had gone up in proportion to the output of the company during the last five or six years. Now, have you any further information on it?

A. We were unable to get a complete analysis of the situation, but we were able to get enough, I think, to explain the Census of Industry report. Back of 1931 -- from 1931 backwards the executive salaries and sales salaries were not included.

Q. Before 1931? A. The sales salaries and executive salaries were not included, so that the staff that you have shown as salaries included the office staff and mill operating staffs.

Q. Yes. A. In 1932 the selling staff and the actual mill executive operating staff were included. In 1933 the full executive salaries were included.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. And included directors and so forth? A. Yes.

Q. Everything, the president's salary?

A. Yes.

BY MR. McPHEE: Q. Was included in what?

A. In the total amount of wages, or salaries.

Q. Just let us get it straight. Go back to 1928, for instance. A. I cannot go back that far because 1930 is the first I have got.

Q. What is the situation? The statement I have shows that there 127 salaried employees in 1930 and that they received $266,558? A. That is correct.

Q. What is included in the 127,000 salaried

employees? A. 127.

Q. 127 salaried employees? A. 40 of an office staff and 87 of a mill staff.

Q. When you mean mill staff, 87 of the mill staff, what are they? A. Clerks, overseers, time keepers, etc. In 1932 which is the next record we have --

Q. Yes. A. There were in addition five executives shown on there.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Who were they, what position? A. There was the secretary, there was the controller, there was the assistant controller, there was the manager and there was the works manager, myself.

Q. All in the mill? A. All in the operating part of the plant.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. This statement I have shows there are 111 in 1932? A. Yes.

Q. And the salaries amounted to $298,868? A. Yes.

Q. Now, what change was there between the years 1931 and 1932? A. There were five executives put on that didn't appear before.

Q. Then, in the figure in 1926 -- or 1931 of the 126, that didn't included the executive salaries? A. No.

Q. Were the executive salaries not shown? A. On the Census of Industry?

Q. On the Census of Industry at all?

A. No, they were not asked for. It was not until 1932 they asked for the executives' salaries and numbers.

Q. Then, in 1933 -- A. In 1932, Mr. McRuer, there was a drop in the office staff from 40 to 37. There were 17 salesmen brought on and there was a drop in the mill staff from 87 to 60.

Q. I see; so that your office staff showed 40 and it dropped to how many? A. 37.

Q. That is three from the office staff? A. Yes, and 17 came on as salesmen, or, excuse me, you are down at mill operating.

Q. I am getting how this 111 is made up? You had 37 office staff and you had 60 mill staff and you had 17 salesmen? A. 17 salesmen, yes.

Q. And 5 executives, 5 mill executives; that doesn't make 111. 60, did you say, mill staff? A. 60, that is what he has given me here. 108, it should come to, shouldn't it --

Q. Well, I have got 112; that doesn't make much difference. A. He is out one.

Q. Then, 1933, what was the situation? A. In 1933 the five executives still remained in number but the controller left. There was a deduction of one, but the president was brought on which brought it back to five, but it changed the total amount.

Q. The president's salary had not been shown in 1932? A. No.

Q. Up till 1933 the president's salary had not been shown in this list of salaries? A. No.

Q. Then -- A. The president and directors and all people like that.

Q. Alright. A. Then the office staff dropped from 37 to 34. The salesmen dropped from 17 to 16 and the mill operating dropped from 60 to 49. Now, that is the limit in which they have been able to take out those figures during the time available, but from that point on the changes have occurred in the selling staff more than in the operating part of the mill. The employees being taken on to bring the numbers up have been amongst the selling staff of the company, which would raise the amount of salary considerably higher in proportion to the numbers.

Q. Then, in 1934 there seems to be a jump to 152? A. That is when we took on a lot of additional salesmen. We extended the retail policy to cover the whole country, into every town in which there was an account whose credit was sufficiently sound for us to sell so that we took on a number of salesmen at that period, and it is their commission which you see which brings that figure up.

Q. Then, in 1933 -- or 1935 it is down to 133 again? A. That again is difficult to explain offhand because I am not exactly aware without going back over the makeup of the Census of Industry figures, but I believe that is again due to selling staff reductions, because we went over the territory in our warehouses and subdivided the territory and got rid of quite a lot of people from the warehouse and sales department staffs.

Q. But the salaries have not changed very much? A. Because they came on there -- they became a salary and commission staff. Their basis of remuneration was changed from straight salary to salary and commission.

Q. I don't quite understand how that would bring about the fact that 152 got $345,000 in 1934 and 132 got $342,000 in 1935? A. As production has increased, as you see in your previous reports, of course the salesmen will have remuneration on a commission basis which would naturally bring up their commission in proportion to their sales but the figures -- rather the report in the Census of Industry is very difficult to follow on account of the change in the various groups.

Q. I will give Mr. Lajoie a copy of this statement, Exhibit 77. Will you have prepared a statement showing the salaries that were paid over these years which are not included in these items? A. I don't know how far back they can go, Mr. McRuer. The secretary told me last night that 1930 was the furthest he could get, as they have no working papers further back to show what the breakdown of those particular Census of Industries were. We will see what we have got.

Q. Show from 1930 what the breakdown of these salaries is; then, in addition any salaries that were paid to the president, secretary or any of the executives that are not included in the figures. A. Yes.

Q. So we will have a complete picture of it. A. Mr. McRuer, you have spoken a number of times about the necessity -- asked me my ideas of the necessity

of protection for our industry.

Q. Yes. A. I have not been prepared to speak in percentages and amounts, but I received this morning from England a paper which is sent out to me by our agent and I would like permission to file this with the court as an idea of what we are actually up against to-day from foreign competition. You spoke of our wage scales and of the high protection which we are getting. This article deals with the census of the wages in the district of Bolton in England and the heading says 63% of the weavers get less than 30 shillings a week. Now, 30 shillings is about $7.50. Now, when you compare that with our wage scales here you will have noted that none of your weavers are getting less than $10.00 a week and a great many of them are getting up to $12 and $15.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. How many hours constitute a week? A. 48 hours I think they speak of in England as being a week.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. 48 hour week? A. I am speaking of a 48 hour week also. It is against this situation which we ask protection to-day, and which we have continued to ask protection. I would like to be allowed to file that little article for your information.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Just pardon me a moment; is it a lengthy article? A. It is only a short article, my lord, about that long.

Q. You better read it.

MR. LAJOIE: An article appearing in the Daily Despatch.

THE WITNESS: Reading from the article in the Daily Despatch of Wednesday, March 18th.

MR. LAJOIE: Where?

THE WITNESS: Published in Manchester, England; it says:

> "The wages census figures for the area covered by the Bolton and District Weavers' Association were issued last night. 'They prove that the weavers' wages are exceptionally low' stated Mr. Cephas Speak, the secretary.
>
> 'About 60 per cent. of the members returned cards. Of these 63.04 per cent receive less than 30 shillings a week.' The earnings of the 3,049 weavers were as follows:

50 shillings or over	42
45 shillings to 50 shillings	123
40 shillings to 45 shillings	211
35 shillings to 40 shillings	274
30 shillings to 35 shillings	466
Less than 30 shillings	1,933

> In the section of the trade covered by the legalised list, which includes grey and coloured work and weavers on the six and four looms systems, 60 per cent of the 2,060 operatives earned less than 30 shillings and only one and a half per cent 50 shillings or over. The percentage of weavers under-employed was 21.45."

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is, not working the full 48 hours? A. Yes. Now, the rest of the article deals with quilts, towels, cotton blankets, etc. which does not interest us.

Q. That will be Exhibit 110, newspaper; what is the name of the paper? A. The Daily Despatch of Manchester, Wednesday, March 18th, 1936.

Q. What date? A. March 18th.

MR. LAJOIE: Does your lordship want that we should put only the clipping in?

THE COMMISSIONER: Just as you like.

MR. LAJOIE: I will out the clipping out.

EXHIBIT NO. 110: Article in Manchester Daily
Despatch of March 18,1936.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, I think your industry has, in season and out of season, put forward the wage earner as the reason for the protection, that they wanted protection for the protection of the interests of the wage earner in Canada as against the wage earner in other countries? A. One of the reasons.

Q. That is the one we have heard most about, anyway? A. Certainly.

Q. Taking the history of your company from its inception the man who has invested money in it has got his return 110% or 105% on his investment. That is on the principal; capital increased. He has got 6% interest on his investment throughout and he has got $1,400,000 in dividends for nothing? A. Not altogether nothing.

Q. Absolutely nothing that was paid for that stock? A. A certain portion of that stock was sold.

Q. If the industry had been run on a basis that paid less generously to the one that invested money and more generously to the man who invested his labour would your industry not be in a better position now to hold out labour as the reason for protection? A. If you can borrow money from the bank, Mr. McRuer, for nothing I would very much like to see you.

Q. I am not talking about money borrowed from the bank; Iam talking about dividends paid on stock for which no money was paid? A. You are going a little too far with that because there was money paid on a certain portion of it.

Q. When I figured my figure of $1,400,000 I was figuring on dividends on the stock that was not -- for which no money was paid. I am only concerned with that. A. Alright.

Q. And that was paid on the stock that your father admitted was strictly bonus stock? A. The point is this. The point you have got to determine is this; what is borrowed money worth.

Q. I am not talking about what borrowed money is worth. A. That is what it is.

Q. I have no doubt the bankers will tell you what borrowed money is worth; they will charge you what they can get for it. A. 7%.

Q. When you have paid that you have paid it. I am not talking about any interest you have paid to the

banks. In addition to the interest that the investor in this enterprise has got on his money you have paid the/banks, I take it, regularly for all they have invested in it? A. Yes.

Q. And I have not taken that into consideration in my summary. I am just saying if the wage earner had been dealt with more generously and the investor, who didn't invest money at all, less generously, would you not be in a better position, do you not think, to-day to put forward the wage earner as the reason for the protection? A. As I said it comes back to -- you have got -- in order to build your plant you have got to borrow money and what that borrowed money is worth is the point which determines what you have got to pay your investor. Now, the practice has been -- one may have to admit that the interest which was paid out may have been high; that is one reason for the refunding operations which have been taking place in the last year, to get financeing --

Q. Well, the refunding operations taking place in the last year is just simply because you can borrow money cheaper now? A. That is the answer, Mr. McRuer. We can borrow money cheaper now than we could in those days.

Q. Well, I don't know that I need to press you very much further with that. It is arguing with you, Mr. Whitehead, more than anything else.

A. It is just a straight argument, Mr. McRuer, on two men's opinions.

Q. You are putting forward what you want is protection against conditions of labour in England at the present time particularly? A. What I am putting forward, Mr. McRuer, to-day, and which, on a brief study of the costs which you presented, shows, is that the investor, what you referred to as the investor, has not got what you say he has got whereas labour has got the wage which is shown in the cost, whether it be as great -- whether it be as large as you would like it. Nevertheless, the wage earner has got the money and the investor has not got the money in the proportions in which you say he has.

Q. I don't want to be unfair; in what proportions do you suggest -- do you say I am suggesting the investor has got money that are not correct? We had it yesterday that on the stock which was given away as a bonus, for which no money was paid at all, the investor or the holder -- he was not an investor -- the fortunate holder or promoter or whatever you like to call him got $1,400,000 in dividends?
A. He got, but he is not getting to-day, and to-day we are asking for protection. We ask for protection to-day.

Q. You are asking for protection for what, so he will get dividends on bonus stock? A. We ask it so we can maintain the level of cost as it is to-day without having to force down the operatives to lower levels.

Q. Why not force down the investor to a little

lower level? A. He has not got anything to-day.

Q. You wanted to get it put on to where he will get something? A. Well, we would all like to. That is the object of business, isn't it?

Q. I am not quarreling so much with the condition you have got into to-day as quarreling with the case -- A. We ask for protection to-day, Mr. McRuer. We are not asking for protection for five years ago. The investigation, as I understand it, is into the condition of the industry to-day, and whether tariffs are necessary to-day.

Q. You still contend that the tariff ought to be sufficient to pay a dividend on stock for which no money was paid? A. I don't contend that at all.

Q. You contend it now? A. I haven't contended that for one minute.

Q. Then you contend it ought not to be? A. I contend any lowering of the tariff will hurt the operative and will reduce the standard of living which the operative enjoys to-day. I have maintained that steadily all through this hearing.

Q. His standard of living has grown steadily worse since you got high protection? A. It has grown steadily worse since we had high protection, but that is due to the whole trade of the world bringing it gradually down. If we did not have high protection to-day you would not get the wages paid which we are paying to-day because our costs show you and our

records show you that the investor, apart from the bond holder, which, if we don't pay has got to go into default, that the investor has got nothing. the common stock investor has not got a cent's worth of money out of it.

Q. I put this to you again, if you had in the treasury of this company the money that you paid out in dividends on stock for which no money was paid at all, the bonus stock, the company would be sitting very nicely, wouldn't it, and would not need to talk so much about protection, and would still be able to pay good wages? A. It would pay the pay roll for one year.

Q. I am not asking you to pay the pay roll -- A. That amount, while it may seem enormous in figures, when you apply it against the pay roll it would not make an awfully big increase in salary.

Q. When you apply it against the pay roll, if you had $1,400,000 in your treasury, that you have paid out in dividends to the holders of bonus stock, you would be able to carry on and you wouldn't have the face to come and ask for high protection? A. I wouldn't agree to that.

Q. You quite realize it is the consumer all over Canada as a whole that pays? A. That is exactly what I tried to refer to yesterday when I said our problem was not one of higher prices but of greater distribution through lower costs. If it were possible to reduce these costs down to a lower level the com-

sumer can get more of the necessities of life for a less price. Our object in operating our mill is to get down the cost down to a point where the increased production can take care of a greater number of earners and allow us to pay a higher salary per earner than we are at the present time. That has been the policy of increasing production on this mill from seventeen million yards to thirty-five million yards in 1935 and a further increase in 1936.

Q. Would you agree with this that you may come to a point where it may be considered econimically unsound that an industry should be given protection at all if the wages they pay are such that a man cannot reasonably live on them? A. They can live -- it is a question there, where you have got to decide whether the population -- whether the taxpayer of the country can afford to pay sufficient direct relief to make the standard of living equal to what they are living to-day.

Q. You quite realize there are a great many channels opened up, that trade changes from one to another to give employment other than in a textile factory. A. They might go back to the farm where they came from. They lived on the farm before their position in the factory, didn't they?

Q. They may have come for a purpose --
A. Actually, theoretically, Mr. McRuer, the place for the unemployed is back where they came from on the land, where they become self-supporting again, don't they?

Q. I am not talking about the unemployed, I am talking about the employed? A. The employees, if they could live before at home on the farm, before they could live in the factory, can certainly go back to the farm the same way as they came from the farm to the factory.

Q. Probably they have been induced to come from the farm by the same sort of statements as were made to the government. They believed the statements that were made to the government in 1930? A. Not at all.

Q. Were the people not intended to believe those statements, that you were going to give more employment and higher wages? A. They may have been led to believe that, but certainly the employee believes what he gets in his pay envelope and that is all he believes.

Q. Not when he leaves the farm? A. He is pretty darn sure before he does leave the farm.

MR. LAJOIE: Contradictory meeting adjourned.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I am not so much interested in theories as I am interested in actually what has happened with this company? A. Well, that pretty well destroys that.

Q. There is a statement I think has not been filed that was produced and that is the average cost of weaving. A. Yes.

Q. For the year ending the 25th of June, 1935? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is an independent exhibit.

MR. [illegible]: Yes, another exhibit, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: 111. What is it?

MR. [illegible]: average cost of weaving for the year ending 25th of June, 1935, cost per yard of cloth, one hundred picks to the inch.

MR. LAJOIE: Number --

SECRETARY WHITELY: 111.

EXHIBIT NO. 111: Statement of average cost of weaving for year ending 25th June, 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are through with Mr. Whitehead?

MR. [illegible]: I will have a few questions, but more than five minutes. I will be about half an hour.

THE COMMISSIONER: Alright, adjourned to two o'clock

-- The Commission adjourned at 12.30 p.m. to resume at 2 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

-- The Commission resumed at 2 P.M.

WILLIAM J. WHITEHEAD,

EXAMINED BY MR. BEAUREGARD:

Q. Mr. Whitehead, just one word about salaries and wages. We know that, so far, wages have taken a downward curve, since 1932, and that salaries have taken an upward curve; you have given, to a certain extent, an explanation of that fact, and now I would like to know if you could mention any salary of staff employees which has been decreased since 1932? A. You say that has been proven, that salaries have taken an upward curve?

Q. As a whole salaries have taken an upward curve, and that wages, as a whole, have taken a downward curve? A. Well, I do not see, Mr. Beauregard that you have proved that statement. I explained to Mr. McRuer this morning, that the total amount of salaries, as shown in the census of industry has been greater than in 1928 and 1932; but I do not think Mr. McRuer has proven that they were actually greater, in the sense that more money had been paid to any one individual.

Q. I just want to come to this point: I want to know whether, since 1932, any member of the staff has received a salary decrease? A. The whole staff had a reduction in pay of 25 per cent.

Q. You mean that the whole staff have suffered

a reduction? A. Yes, with the exception of the men under contract.

Q. Those who had yearly contracts? A. Yes, those who had yearly contracts.

Q. And whose contracts had not expired? A. The contracts had not expired, no; they are continual contracts while those employees are in the service of the company.

Q. What is the status of those employees? A. The head overseers, the employees who are under contract.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. How many of them are there? A. Six of them, off-hand.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. With the exception of those six overseers, all the rest of the staff have suffered a decrease in salary of 25 per cent? A. Including myself.

Q. Including yourself? A. Yes.

Q. From yourself down? A. Yes, from the President down.

THE COMMISSIONER: Including the President?

MR. BEAUREGARD: Yes, including the President, my lord.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. And the Directors? A. Well, they do not get salaries; they get fees for attending the meetings.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. And their fees have also been decreased, have they? A. Yes, their fees have been decreased.

Q. On the same scale as you mention, 25 per cent.? A. Not to the same extent because they only have a nominal fee. I think they were decreased 50 per cent.

Q. 50 per cent? A. Yes.

Q. While the staff, including yourself, have been decreased 25 per cent.? A. 25 per cent., yes.

Q. With the exception of the overseers? A. These overseers and under contract.

Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, while Mr. Fortin was a witness in the box, the question was raised as to a contract which he was supposed to sign when he became an employee of the Wabasso Cotton Company. Have you brought with you the original contract of the Wabasso Cotton Company with Fortin? A. I did not bring his original contract; I brought a contract form.

Q. I am now showing you a contract form; is that the one you refer to? A. Yes, that is the one I refer to.

Q. Then can we take it for granted, that on Fortin's contract there is nothing specially entered; I mean, no remarks or anything special? A. Well, it would be filled out with the remarks that are filled on that card. All the employees have that card filled up and they sign their name on the front here.

Q. This card on one side is a sort of written contract between the Company on the one hand and the employee on the other, and on the other side appear the answers of the employee to certain questions concerning himself

or herself? A. Yes.

Q. Whether they are single or married? A. Yes.

Q. And where employed last? A. Yes.

Q. How long, and the name of the Company? A. Yes, the kind of work, department, and all that sort of thing.

MR. [illegible]: I would like to file this blank, my Lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 113. That is a blank form of employee's contract.

EXHIBIT 113: Blank form of employee's contract.

BY MR. [illegible]: Q. I understand that all employees, I mean all factory employees sign a similar contract? A. All employees on the factory payrolls sign that contract.

THE COMMISSIONER: Show it to me, please.

BY MR. [illegible]: Q. I see the first condition of this contract is, that the employee is going to be paid by the hour. Most of the employees we have heard from in the box were paid piece work. Have you the same formula for everyone? A. That is the way it has always been. I never actually noticed that error myself.

Q. So the employee signs this? A. But that has to do with the contract law in as much as giving notice is concerned; you are engaging a man by the hour, and in case of dismissal the contract terminates at the hour of dismissal.

Q. Yes, but there is a contract which is supposed to be made purposely, and I notice that the first thing is that the employee will be paid by the hour. As far as I can gather during the hearing of this particular case the majority of employees - and Fortin for one - were paid piece work? A. I am sorry, Fortin is paid by the hour.

Q. Then have you a different contract? A. No, it is the same contract.

Q. Just the same as for this, so instead of being paid by the hour they are paid piece-work? A. Yes, Mr. Beauregard. At the next printing of those contracts that will be changed.

Q. Well, I am glad I am helping you to improve. The third paragraph shows that rules and ordinances that are posted in the mills are considered to be part of the contract, and you decide what are to be the orders and by-laws? A. Yes.

Q. Well, to know exactly what the contract is, we should have a copy of all orders and by-laws posted in the mill? A. Yes.

Q. Otherwise, we do not know what the rule is? A. Well, such as "no smoking", "no spitting" and "No matches allowed to be carried by employees in the mill."

Q. And all sorts of things, I suppose? A. Yes, rules and regulations that might pertain to the organization and interior economy of the plant.

Q. The fourth clause is a waiver by the employee

in case of his dismissal, without notice? A. In case of a forced shutting down of the plant.

Q. Well, repairs are not necessarily a full shut-down? A. Well, if the main switches of the plant blow out.

Q. Repairs might necessarily cause a forced shut-down. On the other hand, the repairs may not be of that type? A. They may not, but if there should be a forced shut-down of the plant for any reason the employee cannot hold us responsible for notice.

Q. We had a particular case where one Savoie was dismissed because he decided to marry without the permission of the Assistant Manager. Is there posted on the wall any such rule that no employee can marry unless he has a salary of 25 cents an hour? A. That is a ruling that was made during last summer following disorders and various criticisms of the Company throughout the town. During the Stevens' Inquiry there was a great deal of publicity given to married men working for low salaries. In the disorders during the summer, and last year, there was a great deal of publicity given all through the town, to the effect that the Wabasso Company were engaging married men at salaries on which they could not live. There was generally a great deal of adverse publicity against the Company. I explained to Mr. Sauer that one reason why these employees were given employment was purely

and simply for their own benefits and not through any reasons of ours expecting to employ men at low rates, such as were disclosed by the Stevens' Inquiry during their hearings. With all this adverse criticism directed against the Company, we decided that it was better for us, in order to eliminate this criticism, to make a ruling that in the future nobody who was married could work in the plant where he was not getting a salary which he could live on and support his family; and it was for that reason that that ruling was put there, and that ruling is in force to-day.

Q. Well, that ruling is what might be called the unwritten law, because all the by-laws or ordinances which are supposed to bind the employer and the employee, are those which are posted, as is set out in this card, Exhibit 112. The by-law to which you have just referred, is not posted anywhere? A. No, but all overseers have received the ruling, and the employement manager also knows about it, he has got it.

Q. Where, in his pocket? A. He has written instructions.

Q. But it is not posted? A. It is not posted, no.

Q. I understand from this contract which is signed by every employee, that it is law, but in this case that I speak of, about an employee being married,

it is more in the nature of the unwritten law?
A. The contract covers certain terms.

Q. Yes, and these notices have to be posted on the walls? A. Well, Mr. Beauregard, if you wish to be exact on the point, I suppose you are right; but if every rule or regulation in the Company, which may be made from day to day or from year to year, has got to be entered in the contract between the employee and the Company, well then, I should say it would be a contract that should be drawn up by lawyers when we sign each man. That is a general condition.

Q. Well, I understand that you have a very good form of contract, probably better then lawyers could draw it. But here you say that these notices will be posted on the walls of the mill; nothing forbids you to post on the walls of the mill, that any person who earns a salary below 25 cents a n hour will be dismissed if he marries before getting a regular increase of salary up to 25 cents?
A. The man knew it.

Q. He knew it, but it is not the contract?
A. Not the contract, but he knew it was a ruling.

Q. So you take it, that the employee is bound not only by this contract, and the documents to which this contract refers, but is also bound by the unwritt law, upon which you may decide at any time.

A

M. LAJOIE: Voici un contrat auquel on peut mettre fin après un certain délai.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Quel délai?

M. LAJOIE: Ils se sont engagés à l'heure. On dit: "Vous avez fini, on vous renvoie parce qu'il y a une pancarte affichée dans le moulin pour les hommes mariés - - - -

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Pas besoin de donner de raison?

M. LAJOIE: Pas besoin de donner de raison.

M. [illegible]: A la lecture du contrat que je vois, il n'y a pas besoin qu'ils soient avertis.

M. LAJOIE: Cet engagement est un engagement à l'heure. L'article [illegible], je crois, dit que l'une ou l'autre des parties peut mettre fin à ce contrat - - -

M. [illegible]: Sauf dans les affaires qui gouvernent les patrons et les employés, c'est la loi du contrat. Si on paye un homme à l'heure, on lui donne une heure d'avis; si on paye un homme à la semaine, on lui donne une semaine d'avis.

M. LAJOIE: Toute la réclamation de M. Lavoie, est une réclamation de deux semaines, pas autre chose. J'accepte votre version à savoir que M. Lavoie, qui a une réclamation de deux semaines.

M. [illegible]: Le point de vue ouvrier est signalé à la Cour, c'est que l'ouvrier qui signe un contrat - ce contrat est déjà assez large pour l'employeur - ce contrat peut être modifié par n'importe quel document et n'importe quoi.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Vous dites que selon le contrat, ces ouvriers avaient droit à un préavis de quinze jours.

LE TÉMOIN: C'est nécessaire qu'ils nous donnent un précis. Nous avons tout sur les [illegible] côtés, tous les deux.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, while giving a reply on this question, I do not want to go into a very wide field because it has already been pretty well canvassed, but what I understand is, that while your Company continues to do business it does so for the sole purpose of keeping the employees alive. But there must be another motive of a less philanthropic nature. Is it not a fact that your Company does, to some extent, try to keep the business going in order to make a profit? A. Don't you?

Q. I am asking you the question. You have already said that if you keep this going it is just for the benefit of the employees, that is the very reason? A. Well, I would like that statement re-read to see exactly what I did say.

THE COMMISSIONER: I do not think that is exactly what Mr. Whitehead said.

Q. But there were certain things you were doing? A. Certain things, yes. My statement is that, in the first place, it is better to keep the mill running than to leave it idle.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. For both the employees and yourself? A. And for the Company, yes.

Q. I am talking now about the women. Do you know

that a certain number of women employed at your mill are bound to spend some time at the end of the week, or during the day-time, while they are cleaning machines? A. Yes.

Q. And I understand that these girls, or these women, the larger number of them, are working at piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. That is true? A. Yes.

Q. And do you know that Order No. 5, page 248, governing female employees, at paragraph 4, has this to say:

> "Waiting time: Any emplbyee required to wait on the premises shall be paid for the time thus spent."

That is in the law, in connection with minimum wages for women.

MR. LAJOIE: Where is that, Mr. Beauregard?

MR. BEAUREGARD: Paragraph 4, of Order No. 5, page 248:

> "Any employee required to wait on the premises shall be paid for the time thus spent."

And I understand by that, that any employee who spends any time outside of his work of producing for which he is paid, shall be paid also for the time spent waiting on the premises. Do you know how many hours these women are spending weekly on the premises? A. I think, Mr. Beauregard, if you examine the pay-roll in any one of these departments, you will find

that from the way the payroll is entered up they are paid a flat rate, taking the 21-cent clause, a flat rate of 21 cents an hour for the number of hours that they are intne mill, regardless of whether they are working or whether they are not; the difference between the hourly rate and the piece-work rate is paid as a bonus to the hourly rate, so that regardless of the number of hours that they are in the mill they are paid actually their 21 cents an hour, according to the order of which you have just read.

Q. Do you mean to say that those working on piece-work are paid even if they do not work on piece-work? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. For instance, if a woman works 7 hours at piece-work she is paid according to what she has earned? A. If she works 8 hours in the mill then she is paid 8 hours at the rate of 21 cents an hour; if she has worked during all those 8 hours, 7 hours piece-work and one hour at day-rate, the difference between her earnings on piece-work and day-rate are added to her pay as a bonus.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Did you bring a payroll here? A. You have got here all the payrolls.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. I do not think I understand that, that she works 7 hours, Mr. Whitehead,

and earns more than 21 cents an hour? A. She gets that as a bonus, my lord; she gets the extra as a bonus.

Q. You call the 21 cents wages and the extra earnings bonus? A. Yes.

Q. But if she is kept in afterwards to do cleaning? A. If she is kept in for 8 hours ---

Q. Well, suppose she is kept in 8½ hours? A. She is not allowed in for 8½ hours; she is only allowed 8 hours.

BY MR. BRAINERD: Q. Since the three-eight-hour shifts? A. Yes; it was a different law altogether then.

Q. It was customary before that to keep a woman more than 8 hours? A. Not more than 55 hours per week, or ten hours in any one day.

Q. I want to understand this. Suppose a woman works 7 hours in the mill, or let us say 6 hours, and then she has to stay there for cleaning; do you mean to say that she is paid for that cleaning? A. She is epaid for that cleaning at the rate of 21 cents an hour.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, does that apply even if she has earned 21 cents an hour for the other seven hours? A. She is paid the extra hours at 21 cents an hour.

Q. Even if she has earned 30 cents for the 7 hours she gets 21 cents for the eighth hour? A. Yes, my lord. This girl here has got --

THE COMMISSIONER: You refer to? A. Lydie Lebouef. She will be known in the period of the 1st of February, 1930, as 1982. She has worked for 90 hours; she got 21 cents an hour 90 hours, which gave her a total of $18.90 hourly rate. But that employee worked on piecework and she actually earned $5.05 more than her hourly rate, so that her total pay amounted to $23.95.

Q. Will you tell me what kind of work she was performing? A. She is a sewing machine operator.

Q. A sewing machine operator? A. Yes.

Q. Is she paid on the basis of piece-work? A. Yes.

Q. What is the rate of her piece-work? A. It is based at about 24 cents or 26 cents an hour, I forget exactly.

Q. That is her piece-work rate? A. That is her basic rate at piece-work.

Q. 24 to 26 cents? A. Yes, 24 to 26 cents.

Q. What is that 21 cents doing there in your books? A. That is the minimum wage for women.

Q. So that your way of calculating the wages of women is first to pay them according to the minimum wage? A. To get the percentages right.

Q. To be sure that as to that you are within the law? A. To be sure that the percentages are right.

Q. And then the rest you call it a bonus?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what a bonus is? A. We call it that as a term.

Q. Why do you call it a bonus when it is not a bonus? A. I suppose we can call it anything at all.

Q. That is your right but you should not call it a bonus, because a bonus is something extra given to someone who has fulfilled his contract well. A. That is only a word that has been used.

Q. If you agree to pay a person one dollar an hour, and if that person performs the work that he has undertaken to perform and you pay the one dollar, well, you state in your books that you have paid him the dollar, that you have a contract for a dollar, but you do not state in your books that you have a contract for fifty cents, and that you have given a bonus of fifty cents? A. Well, it is merely a play on words.

Q. Well, you are playing with the employees, because you make a contract with an employee, let us say, at 24 cents or 25 cents piece-work. When the work is done, instead of showing in your books the truth, that is, that I have paid that employee 25 cents because I have agreed to pay 25 cents, you put down in your books, I am paying you 31 cents an hour because the law says so, and furthermore the difference which ought to come to you according to the contract I am going to pay and call it a bonus? A. You

are making a statement for me, are you?

Q. Yes, because I find your books do not tell the truth as to that. A. xx You find that we use one word where possibly another word should be used which would depict the thing more accurately than the word that is being used; but nevertheless the amount is there.

Q. I would like to see in your books an entry that would correspond to the truth. I take it for granted that the books of the Company will show, as far as possible, a true picture of what is supposed to be represented. You agree with me that that is what the books should show? A. Yes.

Q. And did you hire a person at 25 cents an hour, or rather I should say if you hire a person at 25 cents an hour, then the books should show that that person is hired at 25 cents an hour, and if you have paid the person should not the books show that you have paid what you have agreed to pay. Do you agree with that? A. You are getting me mixed up, Mr. Beauregard.

MR. LAJOIE: Has that lady a contract?

MR. BEAUREGARD: She must have a contract.

THE WITNESS: She has a contract, but there is no stipulated wage on her contract.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Supposing she earned, by piece-work, we will say, 25 cents an hour, and you only gave her 21 cents, how could she establish her

right to the other four cents? A. She knows the rate she is working on.

Q. Where is the rate shown? A. There is a schedule of piece-work rates.

Q. And that is put up on the machines? A. On the machine, or is posted in the mill.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. What becomes of that schedule that is posted on the machines after the work is over? A. Well, you have seen the schedule of day rates, as posted. There has only been one word used, which might be the wrong word.

Q. What do you understand by the word "bonus"? A. Bonus is additional over the hourly rate.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: That is not the ordinary meaning? It is something additional to what the party has earned under his contract. It is a reward; it is something you are not obliged to give, and the word "bonus" as you use it, is not the proper word to use.

MR. LAJOIE: I will suggest, my lord, that they use another word.

THE WITNESS: It is a misuse of the word.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Well, what is the meaning of the word "bonus", as it appears in your book? A. Additional earnings to the regular basic rate.

Q. What is the basic rate? A. 21 cents an hour.

Q. You mean, as imposed by the law? A. As

imposed by the law, yes.

Q. Then when I have the word right, you mean the rate agreed upon between you and theemployee, and that is the rate enforced by the Government? A. Yes.

Q. That is what you mean by rate? A. Yes.

Q. And what you call amount is the maximum, or rather the minimum amount imposed by the government? A. By the Government, yes.

Q. That is the meaning of amount? A. Yes.

Q. And bonus is what the employee is entitled to get because it is within the limit of his contract with the firm? A. It is the amount she has earned.

Q. And which she is entitled to get? A. Yes.

Q. For which she could sue the company if she was not paid? A. Yes.

Q. She is entitled to it? A. Yes, she is entitled to it.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Mr. Whitehead, supposing a woman actually earns less than the minimum? A. She is paid the basic rate of 21 cents an hour.

Q. Does that happen sometimes? A. Yes, my lord, it happens a great many times.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. When does it happen? A. You may be able to find one in the actual payroll. Here is one at 17½ cents; she earned no bonus.

Q. Well, take that one if you like? A. Excuse me, that is a boy.

Q. I take here Marie Boisvert; that is on the

payroll of the 1st of February, 1936; she is known as 2005 and I see that she has worked 31 hours?
A. Oh, no.

Q. Excuse me, that should be Pauline Groleau, and she is known as No. 2006, and that is again the payroll of the 1st of February, 1936; she appears to have worked 84 hours at 12½ cents an hour? A. Yes.

Q. And that would make exactly $10.50 ?
A. Yes, $10.50.

Q. And what remark have you got to make?
A. Well, she has been paid actually her hours, and she has earned nothing over the actual hourly rate.

Q. You mean that under her contract with the firm, it happens that the rate set by the government as a maximum, 12½ cents an hour, happens to be the very amount you have agreed with her for her work?
A. No, it happens to be the least amount that can be paid to that girl, and that on piece work she has not earned more than that amount, therefore, she has had to be paid that amount.

Q. Do you mean that this lady is working at piece-work? A. At piece-work, yes.

Q. How much an hour, 12½ cents? A. 12½ cents.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Piece-work would not be by the hour? A. No, but the actual rate she has earned is 12½ cents.

Q. Can you tell us what she actually earned, how much she actually earned and what she got?

A. Not from this payroll, I will have to get the sheets.

BY MR. [illegible]: Q. Let me come back to this: She has worked 84 hours, or has she worked 84 hours? A. Yes.

Q. And she was supposed to be paid on piece-work? A. Yes. She has not earned more than she was entitled to be paid under the Minimum Wage Law, therefore, the Company had to pay her 12½ cents an hour regardless of her earnings on piece-work.

Q. Yes. If you had had no minimum set she would have received a lower rate than $10.50? A. She may have earned $9, $8, $7, or $6.

Q. She would have been entitled to a lower rate? A. Yes.

Q. But the difference between her actual earning and that amount entered in your book is not known as a bonus, but it is based on what you call the basic rate? A. Yes.

Q. You have paid her $10.50, because seeing that she had worked 84 hours she could not receive less, according to the law? A. She could not receive less, according to the law.

Q. But do you pay anything to a woman being present in your mill, waiting in your mill while she is not working? A. Well, that may be a case there, I cannot say for sure whether she has had two or three hours spread-out during the week of waiting-time in which she has got her 12½ cents.

Q. Have you got a time check for your employees? Do they check in and out? A. No, but one is being installed. Authority was given this winter to install one as soon as the frost is out of the ground and we can start building.

Q. And you will have a clock? A. A punch clock which the employee has to punch out and punch in each day.

Q. Have you personally any means of knowing that an employee is within the walls of the building or not? A. No employee is allowed in and out of the doors of the plant during working hours without authority from the overseer, and which authority is a written pass signed by the overseer,which has got to be stamped by the recording time clocks at the front door of the plant.

Q. Does that serve, in any way, in your records of keeping the time the employees have been in the building,or have worked in the building? Do you use those cards as a means of recording the time the employees have spent in the building? A. They are checked up with the payroll to see that the overseers have entered the time accurately in the case of overtime or short time.

Q. So it is impossible to tell, from this payroll,whether an employee has been paid or has not been paid for time spent waiting in the mills; we cannot find that in your payrolls? A. Yes, I have shown it to you.

Q. Well, I must take your word for it, but it is not shown there, it is not shown in your pay-roll? A. Well, I have nothing but the overseers' time book to show you that the employee was in the mill. Her picture was not taken when she came in or went out, but I say that a time clock system is going to be installed, because we realise the importance of checking that time accurately.

Q. You are improving? A. Certainly.

Q. I see that the number by which an employee is known is changed every pay or so; is there any reason why the same employee should not be known under this same number all the time he is with you? A. It has not been necessary under the present system, but when the punch system is installed every employee will have a permanent number, and he or she will be known by that number at all times; but that number will not correspond actually with the payroll number because the way the payrolls are numbered is consecutively, and the changing of the employees changes the numbers --

Q. And in the payrolls you follow consecutive numbers? A. Yes.

Q. And if an employee were absent for a month his month-number would be absent from the payroll also, and you would have to leave it aside? A. Yes.

Q. Because employees might be sick, or suspended, so that their numbers could not be used again before they were dismissed definitely? A. Under the new

system they will have permanent numbers.

Q. Mr. Whitehead, during the last strike, you had a conversation with Mr. Robichaud, the Mayor of Three Rivers? A. Yes.

Q. There has been filed here an exhibit known as 49, which purports to be conditions already accepted by the workmen, and which were submitted by his Worship the Mayor, to you, for your consideration, and which, I understand, were refused by you. Would you look over this document and tell me why? A. The document was handed to me by the Mayor at my house, and I communicated its contents to the President.

Q. Mr? A. Mr. C.R. Whitehead, and discussed the situation with him. The document was refused, because it purported recognition of the Union.

Q. Well, you studied the document? A. The document was not studied point by point as a document, but as a document as a whole.

Q. May we take it for granted that the first paragraph, which shows what the hours of work should be, that is, in conformity with the law actually in force, or that will become in force; you are not against that? A. No.

Q. That is the first paragraph, and you agree with that? A. That is what we are doing to-day.

THE COMMISSIONER: You would have to agree with that.

BY MR. [illegible]: Q. If this had been the only

stipulation, you would have agreed to it? A. Yes, but there would have been no need for a contract.

Q. I understand that. Let us take the second one, that is, that the age of employees should be in conformity with the laws actually in force, or to become in force, and the third one, the salaries which will be fixed will be so fixed after a complete investigation of the whole situation, and that this investigation shall be completed before the end of the present month. Did you look particularly into this condition? A. I certainly did.

Q. Did you accept it or refuse it? A. Refused it qbsolutely.

Q. You could not accept that? A. No.

Q. You refused it then? A. Yes.

Q. And you would refuse it to-day? A. Absolutely.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Do you mean by that that you refused it because it came from this Union? A. On principle, my lord, I would not commit myself to any suspicion of a promise such as contained in that wording in case circumstances would prohibit my carrying out even the suspicion of a promise.

Q. Whether it came from the Union or not? A. Whether it came from anybody.

THE COMMISSIONER: Read it again, Mr. Beauregard, please.

MR. BEAUREGARD: "Les salaires qui seront fixes le seront apres enquete approfondie de troute la situation et cette enquete devra etre completee

avant la fin du present mois;"

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. You understand, Mr. Whitehead, that you had nine days to study what they call the situation in connection with salaries? A. Yes.

Q. And you refused to take nine days to study the situation? A. I did not refuse to take nine days to study the situation. I refused to commit myself to any promise or suspicion of a promise.

Q. What is it you understood by this third paragraph; what did you understand you were binding yourself to? A. I was binding myself to a study of the situation by outside parties whom, I considered, were not as capable of arriving at a decision as I was myself.

Q. Did you understand that you were not to study that by yourself? A. No.

Q. You understood that you were to study that with the employees? A. I understood I was to study that with the employees.

Q. Is it set out in the paragraph? A. No, but that was the understanding that was given to me.

Q. Oh, that was the translation, or interpretation; who gave you that interpretation? A. The Mayor, when he explained these paragraphs to me.

Q. That the investigation should take place with you and the Committee? A. With me and the Committee, yes.

Q. And that is what you refused? A. Yes.

Q. If you had understood that you were the only one to study the situation, would you have refused? A. I would have refused just the same.

Q. Then the 4th paragraph:

> "Les fetes religieuses qui seront chomees seront celles qui le sont actuellement et autres qui seront decretsees, comme devant etre chomees, par l'autorite ecclesiastique;"

Is it correct that you have refused to abide by such an agreement? A. This goes back a good many years to the time of Cardinal Begin, at Quebec, when this question of religious holidays was worked out at the time, and I have always been given to understand by my father, that he agreed with Cardinal Begin at Quebec, to allow five holidays during the year, and that the Church would not ask us to stop on any other holidays except these five enumerated, and that has been in force in the Company all the time that I haveknown.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What are the five, Mr. Whitehead? A. Christmas, New Year's --/Q. Good Friday, I suppose? A. The 1st of July--

Q. The first of July is not a religious holiday? A. No.

Q. What about Good Friday? A. No, we do not stop on Good Friday. Labour Day.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: That is not a religious holiday? A. And All Saints; those were the five

holidays that were decided on; Christmas, New Year's, 24th of June, or the 1st of July, according to conditions, Labour Day, and All Saints.

Q. So those would be the five days in the year? A. On which we stopped.

Q. A combination of religious holidays and civic holidays on which you stopped? A. Yes.

Q. And to those you agree with Cardinal Begin? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose Cardinal Begin did not want to interfere with your closing the mill on the 1st of July or Labour Day; do you really believe that Cardinal Begin decided that you should not work on the 1st of July or on Labour Day? A. I did not have any part in the discussion, and I don't know what was decided.

Q. Do you know if this decision between your father and Cardinal Begin had been put in writing? A. I cannot tell you that.

Q. Anyway, you decided, under no consideration, to change the number? A. No.

Q. Of days on which the mill should close? A. No.

Q. And you are still of that mind? A. Still.

8 Q. Now, I come to the sixth paragraph, which reads as follows:

> "Le Comite Industriel representant les employes pourra en aucun temps etre represente aupres des autorites de la Compagnie par le Comite de Conciliation ci-dessus designe et forme des employes de la Compagnie, pour la

discussion de toute question que le dit Comite de Conciliation jugera utile de discuter avec les autorites de la Compagnie. Advenant le cas ou il devienne necessaire de remplir une vacance au Comite de Conciliation, les autres membres du Comite de Conciliation nommeront alors, parmi les employes de la Compagnie, un remplacant sur le Comite, et ce Comite ainsi reconstitue formera alors le Comite de Conciliation."

Did you go over that clause, and did you study clause before refusing to grant it, or to amend it?
A. Yes.

Q. That was the decision, you refused it?
A. Absolutely.

Q. Did you not think of amending it rather than using it? A. No.

Q. You did not suggest any amendment to it?
A. No, because the Company refused to sign any contract with the union as represented in the contract at all.

Q. Do you know that the law says that unions may exist in your shops, and may speak as a union, do you know that? A. Do I what?

Q. Do you know that, according to the law, the employees are entitled to form into unions, and that unions are entitled to speak to the employers and come to terms with them?

THE COMMISSIONER: You had better show it to him.

MR. LAJOIE: Read the law first, that would be better.

MR. BEAUHARNARD: I would refer you to the Collective Labour Agreement, which is paragraph 16 of the Act known as the Act respecting professional syndicates.

MR. LAJOIE: What page, please?

MR. BEAUHARNARD: Page 301. It reads, my lord: "Collective Labour Agreement." Did you go over that law? A. Absolutely.

Q. You mean Yes? A. Yes.

Q. Well then, we will read it together, if you will allow me; paragraph 16 reads as follows:

> "16. The collective Labour Agreement is a contract respecting labour conditions made between the representatives of a professional syndicate, or of a union, or of a federation of syndicates, on the one hand, and one or more employers, or representatives of a syndicate, or union, or federation of syndicates of employers, on the other hand."

You see, I am taking that out of the code of Labour and Industrial Laws of the Province of Quebec, and certain Federal Laws with rules and regulations concerning their application, at page 301, article 16, of an Act known as an Act respecting professional syndicates, Chapter 255 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec, 1925, and amendments.

MR. LAJOIE: The Act respecting professional syndicates, Chapter 255 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec, 1925, with certain federal laws with rules and regulations concerning their application, we say it is only a definition of these functions, what they can do between themselves, but it has no relation to employers at all.

MR. BEAUREGARD: I have not much to say in reply. The law speaks for itself. I am asking the witness whether he is conversant with the law, and he says, Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: It seems to me that you are forming a wrong idea of the contract which the employer and the employee may make, and which the law will recognize, but the employer is not compelled to make it.

MR. BEAUREGARD: If the employees are entitled to speak as a union, or as a syndicate, I take it for granted that if the employee can do it within the law--

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M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Si l'employeur dit non, comment Voulez
voulez-vous le forcer. Si quelqu'un refuse, si l'un ou l'autre refuse de signer, si le syndicat refuse de signer ou si l'employeur refuse de signer?

M. [illegible]: Le patron peut refuser de donner son consentement, pour d'autres raisons, soit parce qu'il ne peut pas accepter les conditions, ou bien, tout en admettant l'union comme partie contractante, peut tomber en désaccord sur les conditions suggérées par cette partie contractante.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Dans un tel contrat, pouvez-vous le forcer?

M. [illegible]: Je veux retirer le témoin en présence d'un texte de la loi qui a pour effet de favoriser les ententes entre patrons et ouvriers.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Pour encourager les conventions collectifs; on ne peut pas forcer un employeur à accepter un contrat.

M. [illegible]: Il y a actuellement, cet après-midi même, une demande faite par les ouvriers à la législature de Québec pour forcer les patrons à accepter les unions. C'est le meilleur aveu de la part des ouvriers qu'ils n'ont pas ce droit-là de prendre un mandamus.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: La compagnie en question refuse de faire des contrats en vertu de cette loi.

M. [illegible]: Je demande au témoin si il connaît cette loi pour voir si ce serait par ignorance qu'il aurait refusé ou si, connaissant la loi, il aurait refusé quand même.

Quand à l'argument, je n'ai pas besoin de le prendre avec le témoin. Quand je dis que l'esprit

de la loi, c'est de comprimer les métiers, c'est un argument que je prendrai plus tard avec le Juge.

M. LE COMMISSAIRE: Il a bien établi son attitude.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. I take it for granted, Mr. Whitehead, that the same motives have caused your refusal to accept this tentative agreement, Exhibit 47, which was annexed to a letter sent to you by one Lebrie, Secretary of the Union? A. Yes.

Q. For the same reason? A. The same reason, yes.

Q. You did not discuss this tentative agreement paragraph by paragraph? A. Yes.

Q. With whom? A. With the representatives of the employees.

Q. And you have refused all of them? A. Yes.

Q. For the reason you did not want to recognize a union? A. We would not enter into any contract.

Q. Do I understand that this applies to any union, not only the United Textiles Workers of America, but any sort of union? A. We will not enter into any contract with any sort of union.

Q. Not only any contract but any discussion? A. Any discussion.

Q. Because I understand that, so far, you have refused to discuss? A. Yes. I won't say I have refused to discuss. I discussed.

Q. To tell them that you would not discuss? A. I met the employees once.

Q. Then may I put it on the record, that you would not discuss any more with a union of employees of the Wabasso Mills who would have anything to do with any American union or any foreign union? May I put it on record that you would refuse to discuss with a union of employees of Wabasso Mills?
A. I have already made my statement, have I not?

Q. I would like to get it at this stage so that we will have it altogether? A. You asked me a question a few minutes ago.

Q. And I understood you gave a negative answer?
A. I said No, the Company will not enter into an agreement with any union whatsoever.

Q. The Wabasso Company has already entered a union of employers, not of employees.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is there such a thing?

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Is there a union of employers, I mean of Textile Mills? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. You do not know of any committee, or union of Textile Mills? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Well, Mr. Lanctot is here and seems to represent something like a Committee of the Textile Mills.

MR. LANCTOT: I have already given my credentials, Mr. Beauregard.

MR. BEAUREGARD: Just a minute, and I will read your own declaration, Mr. Lanctot.

MR. LANCTOT: I have given the names of the members of the Committee to Mr. [illegible], subsequent to my appearance.

(Page 1425 follows)

MR. WHITEHEAD: I will read, my lord, from the first session of the Royal Commission on the Textile Industry, which took place in Ottawa on the 20th of February, 1936, what Mr. Lanctot, K.C., who is present before the Commission to-day, spoke, as follows:

"THE COMMISSIONER: Does anybody else wish to address me at this time?"

And then Mr. Lanctot says:

"My lord, I have been asked by a special committee of the Primary Textile Industry to represent it as counsel to give full co-operation in collecting information during this inquiry.

My services can be used for contact with any branch of the Primary Textiles Industry.

As soon as advised as to any information required, everything possible will be done by myself and my clients to expedite collection and presentation of necessary facts.

SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY:

We note that the Order-In-Council providing for this inquiry is very broad and covers a very large field of investigation. The textiles industry is extremely complex and widespread in location; and our co-operation is offered to facilitate the work.

Our clients welcome this inquiry as a means of informing the Canadian Government and the Canadian people of the exact facts regarding the situation of their industry. The primary textiles industry

"comprises: 1. Cotton yarn and cloth. 2. Woollen yarn and cloth. 3. Hosiery and knit goods. 4. Silk and silk goods. 5. Rayon or artificial silk yarn and cloth.

The primary textiles industry, wool, cotton, silk, rayon, and knitting (not including needle and clothing trades) is composed of 447 mills in 172 municipalities, with an annual pay-roll of over $45,000,000.00 a year, with 60,000 employees, according to statistics which will be given at a later date."

May I take for granted that the Wabasso mills is included in this vast enumeration of mills and employees? A. Yes. You remarked it was a protective committee of employers. You are now saying it is an institute which has been formed to take care of the industry as a whole, not for the benefit of the employers only, but the industry as a whole.

Q. You mean what we might call the committee has as its object not only the welfare of the company but the community as a whole? A. The industry as a whole.

Q. The industry; do you belong to this -- what do you call it, association?

A. Institute.

Q. Which Mr. Lanctot represents?

MR. LANCTOT: I do not represent any institute. I do not want any mis-statement. I do not represent any institute. I have given the four names of those

I represent. I have given the names of all the people, all the mills which are represented by the committee.

THE COMMISSIONER: Committee of what?

MR. LANCTOT: A special committee to represent them before this inquiry.

THE COMMISSIONER: Who are the members of the committee?

MR. LANCTOT: I have given the list to Mr. McRuer.

THE COMMISSIONER: It may be a long list.

MR. LANCTOT: Four members of the committee.

THE COMMISSIONER: You gave it to Mr. McRuer?

MR. LANCTOT: I have given it to Mr. McRuer. I have given the names of the members.

THE COMMISSIONER: The Wabasso Company is not one?

MR. LANCTOT: We were in contact with them. Our members were in contact with Wabasso, but not the institute. This is a committee to represent the industry as a whole at the inquiry so as to give it more unity.

THE COMMISSIONER: Was that institute or associatio or whatever it was something that was created on account of this inquiry?

MR. LANCTOT: A special committee --

MR. McRUER: I think there is a misunderstanding. I think what my friend, Mr. Lanctot, is attempting to say is there was a committee organized on account of this inquiry. What my friend, Mr. Beauregard, is dealing with is a textile institute, an association of the textile companies who are engaged in the industry

which was organized before this inquiry was ever brought about.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Lanctot is not speaking for that institute?

MR. McRUER: He is not speaking for that institute. He is speaking for a committee.

MR. BEAUREGARD: A protection committee.

MR. LANCTOT: I do not see how my statement is mixed up with any institute of any kind because I claimed very distinctly that I was acting for a committee and I have given the names of the members who adhere to that committee officially in our correspondence before we came to the second meeting.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. So we are trying to draw conclusions from what has been said. There is a protection committee formed to meet the Royal Commission on Textiles and I understand Mr. Lanctot, as you know, represents that committee before the Commission and that Wabasso mills is in contact with that committee; is that correct? A. I am not sure of that, Mr. Beauregard. You are asking me something I am not absolutely positive of the exact situation. I understand that as far as the Wabasso is concerned they are with themselves, that Mr. Lanctot has got a watching brief for certain interests which has something to do with something else, and is supporting us with what information he has got, but actually as to the defence of this company, that is being done by the company itself.

Q. You don't require that information? A. No.

Q. But you enjoy it? A. Yes.

MR. LAJOIE: Their attorney is enjoying the information received from Mr. Lanctot. This is the time to say it and I say it.

MR. BEAUREGARD: That has come at this time.

Q. Now, I have before me something you must know. It is a sort of white book that has been published, as far as I can see, by the Primary Cotton Textile Industry in Canada, history and development. It is entitled Some Facts --

MR. LAJOIE: It is by the Cotton Institute.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. It is entitled "Some Facts and Figures" including a number of reports submitted to the Royal Commission on Price Spreads by its auditors and it is published by the Cotton Institute of Canada? A. Yes.

Q. You belong to that institute? A. Yes.

Q. The Cotton Institute; Wabasso is a member of the Cotton Institute? A. Yes.

Q. What is the object of the Cotton Institute? A. The Cotton Institute was instituted for the protection of the industry.

Q. Of the industry? A. Of the industry.

Q. Of the cotton industry? A. Yes, it forms a branch of the Primary Textile Institute of Canada.

Q. You say I suppose this time as above for the industry as a whole? A. Yes.

Q. When you say as a whole you mean employer and

employee? A. Yes.

Q. You would suppose, you would expect that when the employees form a union they form that union to work? I suppose you will admit that? A. I don't know what they form them for.

Q. You have refused without knowing what it was for? You don't say that? A. I don't occupy myself with their affairs.

Q. It is the first time you have made a reply that you have not pondered a long time before. You must have refused a union of working men without knowing what they formed it for? Would you repeat that, that you have refused to consider the formation of a union among your employees without knowing what was the object of that union? A. I didn't object to them forming a union.

Q. You object to speaking to the union? A. I object to speaking to the union.

Q. You admit they may do at home what they want but at the Wabasso they must not form a union? A. I have got no control over that.

Q. You don't want them to use that as a porte parole with you? You would not accept that when a union of workers is formed that it is for the welfare of the industry in which those workers are employed? A. It all depends what you call the welfare, Mr. Beauregard.

Q. The welfare is the continuance of the industry, I suppose, because they cannot expect to

work if the industry is brought to the rocks.

MR. LAJOIE: Charity begins at home.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Do you agree with that, that the working men cannot expect to work for the Wabasso if they ruin the Wabasso? A. Certainly.

Q. You accept that proposition? A. Yes.

Q. Would you accept that intelligent people, who would want to work at the Wabasso, would not form a union for the sole purpose, or for the incidental purpose of bringing Wabasso to the rocks? A. Would you repeat that?

Q. The reporter will read the question.

-- Reporter reads question as follows:

> "Would you accept that intelligent people, who would want to work at the Wabasso, would not form a union for the sole purpose, or for the incidental purpose of bringing Wabasso to the rocks?"

A. My reply -- I think -- I am clearly convinced that if the working people really considered their welfare and really desired the continuation of operations of the Wabasso Cotton Company, that they would not waste their time with any outside organization who did not know the conditions of employment as well or the conditions in the industry.

Q. Then, can I take it for granted that if they would organize within the province, and within the city and within your mill that you would not say the same as you have just said on account of the bounds of the

organization, an external organization?

A. I don't understand your question.

Q. Well, the reporter will read it --

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. I think you can understand that. You have just said you won't have anything to do with an outside organization, you don't think it would be for the welfare of your industry and you would not co-operate with outsiders who do not know anything at all about your conditions. Now, Mr. Beauregard says suppose they organized within your own mill or within this city here, you still could not say they know nothing at all about conditions. You would not have that reason? A. I say they know nothing -- they are not in a position, my lord, to know the conditions of the industry as they are only one small part of that industry.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Does that mean that they could not pick, let us say -- you said you had about 2,000 employees? A. Yes.

Q. Do you mean to say that out of 2,000 employees they could not pick the five best men and that those five best men could not understand any good reason you might give them in a friendly discussion or your common interests? A. I have tried in the past to explain, apparently without avail. They don't seem to wish to understand what I have been trying to explain since last August.

Q. Were you talking to duly appointed representatives of the organization? A. I had spoken to duly appointed representatives of the employees of the

company.

Q. You mean you have spoken to the Industrial Committee? A. Yes.

Q. We will speak of that later on. Now, you say in your experience as you have spoken with the industrial committee -- A. Yes.

Q. You say you have not been listened to? A. Apparently not, because we were precipitated into other strikes and labour disturbances.

Q. Not to go too far away from this Cotton Institute. We have understood that you are a member of the Cotton Institute. It has been founded for the reason you have given? A. Yes.

Q. I suppose you have had some correspondence with the Institute during these last years in which textiles were brought into the limelight on commissions? Have you any correspondence with the Cotton Institute of Canada? A. Yes, I have correspondence with the Cotton Institute of Canada.

Q. Would you give us whatever correspondence you have with the cotton institute of Canada, let us say since you yourself were in charge of the mill?

MR. LAJOIE: For to-morrow's hearing?

MR. BEAUREGARD: Yes.

MR. LAJOIE: We will stay here a few days more.

MR. BEAUREGARD: Well, if it is worth staying for we will have pleasure to be with you gentlemen.

Q. You will file that to-morrow morning? You will bring to-morrow morning that correspondence with the Cotton Institute concerning the cotton section and

the rayon section since you were in charge personally of the Wabasso mills? A. That is dealing with all subjects?

Q. Subjects of protection, I mean, tariff protection and --

MR. McRUER: Dealing with all subjects.

THE COMMISSIONER: You better bring everything, otherwise you would charge Mr. Whitehead with the duty of culling out other matters.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Then you will bring everything of that correspondence. You have spoken of the Industrial Committee. We know something about the Committee. Would you tell us who would convene the Committee, get the Committee to assemble at its place of meeting, who would give notice of its meeting? A. The Committee can be convened two ways. If any group of employees through their representative wish to place a complaint before the management they can notify the employment manager, Mr. Haggar, that there is a complaint they wish to make and the meeting will be called, and we call a regular meeting -- that can be called on the day or dates which is suitable to myself or others of the Committee.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You said regular meeting; do you have periodical meetings? A. We have every -- we have so far had them every two or three weeks. There is no definite date set for the meeting.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Who gives the date, who gives the notice?

A. It is usually given -- decided upon at the meeting, the preceding meeting.

Q. When the Committee will meet again?

A. Yes.

Q. This meeting of the employees, that is convened in your premises? A. In our premises.

Q. Then, you are present yourself? A. Yes.

Q. You assist? A. Yes.

Q. So far you have assisted at every meeting?

A. At every meeting.

Q. Mr. Haggar assists also at the meeting?

A. Yes.

Q. And Mr. Carle, as I understand?

A. He attended the first two organisation meetings so as to point out to the operatives, and also tobe a witness to my statement that I was prepared to listen to all complaints and suggestions on the part of the operatives, and that I would not discriminate against them for anything that might be said or done at that meeting, and that although I did not promise to correct every complaint that I would do my best to give them an answer or explanation to any point which they might raise.

Q. Do you know of any meeting of the Industrial Committee which has been held without you being present or invited? A. No.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. How long has this committee been in existence? A. Since the 17th of August.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. 1935? A. 1935.

Q. Previous to the first strike of last August; is that so? A. Yes.

BY MR. [illegible]: Q. The Committee was unable to prevent the strike? A. The Committee was formed at a suggestion that by forming it and giving the employees a chance to express their opinions and desires and complaints that it might be able to prevent the trouble which apparently was impending at the time.

Q. Do you believe that a Committee of working men at which the employer assists is a committee free of action in every way? A. I do not understand just what you determine -- just what would determine what the actions are. It depends what the committee is there for.

Q. What is it there for? A. It is there to meet the management. It is there to meet the management, to express their suggestions and complaints and desires to the management.

Q. Don't you think that before meeting the management the committee might find it useful to consider by itself what it is going to say, what they are going to ask, what answer you might give, and what might be the reply to your answer, or, prepare to a certain extent to meet the employer instead of gathering altogether at the same time and then that the committee should think openly before the management? A. As long as I am willing to listen to them think I don't see that there is any necessity for them to meet.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Is there anything to prevent them meeting among themselves? A. No, they can meet among themselves as much as they like. I have never stopped them.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. You never heard of any meeting outside of your premises, met outside of your premises? A. No.

MR. BEAUREGARD: Alright, with the exception of continuing when we get that correspondence with the Institute I am through with the witness.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Just a minute; there are one or two things that occurred to me, Mr. Whitehead, that I have not had just cleared up yet. I asked yesterday for a list of the salaries of the Wabasso Company -- paid by the Wabasso Company to executives since its incorporation, and also by the St. Maurice Company -- or the Shawinigan Company. Has that been prepared? A. This is the first time I have received that request.

Q. You might let us have that then, since the incorporation of the company? A. You want a list?

Q. Of salaries paid by the Wabasso Company, the Shawinigan Company and the St. Maurice Company? A. I don't think the St. Maurice has any, myself.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: When you say salaries do you mean salaries of the employees, also?

MR. McRUER: No, of the executives.

THE COMMISSIONER: With the names of the persons?

MR. McRUER: With the names of the persons.

THE WITNESS: Is that the way that was shown before?

BY MR. McRUER: Q. Yes. A. Since when?

Q. Since the incorporation, by years. And then I would like to have a statement of the shares held in the Wabasso Company by Mr. Pyke, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Greenshields? A. Statement of shares held in Wabasso --

Q. By Mr. Pyke --

THE COMMISSIONER: Who?

MR. McRUER: Mr. Pyke, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Greenshields. A. Mr. Greenshields is dead.

Q. Well, over the period; he was one of the associates with Mr. Whitehead at its incorporation, you recollect. At the end of the fiscal year, each year; that is, the 30th of June.

A. Mr. Pyke, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Greenshields.

Q. At the end of the fiscal year.

A. Since incorporation?

Q. Yes, that is just in the Wabasso Company. And they were to give me a copy of the minute of the St. Maurice Company showing the agreement under which the 12,500 shares of its capital stock was originally issued. A. Copy of a minute of St. Maurice, of an agreement?

Q. Showing the agreement under which 12,500 shares of the capital stock were originally issued.

A. 12,500 shares originally issued.

Q. And Mr. Lejoie handed me --

MR. LAJOIE: It is an exhibit; it is number 73. It is already filed by me.

MR. McRUER: If it is, it is alright; if it isn't I want it filed.

THE COMMISSIONER: 73 is a pay envelope.

MR. LAJOIE: I have marked it 73. I thought you had filed it.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. I presume this statement is prepared from information that has been secured from the Wabasso Company by the Financial Post?
A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: This is a new document?

MR. McRUER: This is a new document which has not been filed.

THE WITNESS: Did you say the original issue and transfer?

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it?

MR. McRUER: It is a financial history of the Wabasso Cotton Company published by the Financial Post Corporation Service. It does not appear to be dated -- oh yes, it is revised August 9, 1932.

MR. LAJOIE: 1933.

MR. McRUER: Mine is 1932.

MR. LAJOIE: Mine is 1933.

MR. McRUER: You are a little more up to date, then. Probably we better have the most recent one.

MR. LAJOIE: I will agree with the 1932.

MR. McRUER: It brings it down to one year later.

MR. LANCTOT: Here is the 1934.

MR. LAJOIE: Take the 1934. Take the latest one.

THE COMMISSIONER: Which are you putting in?

MR. McRUER: 1934, my lord.

EXHIBIT #113: Financial statement of Wabasso Cotton Company, Limited as issued by the Financial Post Corporation Service.

BY MR. McRUER: There was something you wanted to ask me? A. You said shares, the original issue and transfer or just the original issue?

Q. The shares, original issue; you see, there was an agreement under which the capital stock was all issued to Mr. Whitehead and we did not have the St. Maurice books here yesterday and I want to have a copy of that minute. Now, just let me see that; according to this statement published by the Financial Post we apparently have not got quite all the dividends that have been paid by this company. I have dealt from the financial reports as they were supplied. In 1927, or before that there apparently was a dividend of 6-3/4% in 1919. That would be on the par value of the shares; I suppose it is 6-3/4% of the par value. That was before they were converted into no par value? A. I should imagine.

Q. Then in 1920 7½%? A. 7½%.

Q. 7½% on the par value; then 1921 there was 4% plus $2.00 per share. That does not quite tie up with the financial statements that we got there of the company. I just want to get that to make sure about it, to be accurate about it, because we don't want to make any calculations on anything that is not

accurate.

MR. LAJOIE: The financial statements are more accurate. This is information.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. The capitalization was apparently changed in 1920 from 17,500 shares at $100 to 35,000 shares of no par value. I am wondering how this 4% was figured in 1921. Let me have that annual statement for 1921. In 1921 for the year ending the 30th of June, 1921, the annual statement gives us $4 per share? A. I guess the Financial Post has worked that out in percentages. They do that often. They put it on the percentage of yields in the market value.

Q. Just so that we may have it correct can you get us the annual returns for the years 1919 and 1920? A. The annual statements?

Q. The annual statements for the years 1919 and 1920. A. If these have to be copied out, may we send them to you, any of these things that we have to copy we will send to you.

Q. Yes. Then, according to the Financial Post statement in the year 1927 the dividend is stated to be $4.00 plus $1.00. And in 1928 $4.00 plus $2.00; well, according to your statements in 1927 it was $4.00 plus $1.50 and then in 1928 -- oh, there was a bonus of $2.00 in 1928 so that it was $4.00 plus $2.00? A. Yes.

Q. So that some of our calculations yesterday apparently have been too modest. I will have to do that all over again. A. I think you had them

alright.

Q. I think yesterday I was only counting bonuses for one year where there was two. Alright, thank you. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Adjourned for ten minutes.

-- Adjourned at 3.45 p.m. to 3.55 p.m.

-- On resuming.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Mr. Whitehead, you are the managing director of the Wabasso Cottons since when? A. The fall of 1932.

Q. Where is located your office? A. At the company's plant.

Q. Is it far from the door through which the employees pass to go in or out from the mill? A. They pass right by my office to go in and out.

Q. When an employee has any complaint to make is it possible for him to reach you or reach your office? A. Yes.

Q. How would he arrange to see you? A. They usually open the door of the office and walk in.

Q. Do you receive them? A. If I am not busy I receive them immediately. If I am busy or occupied with something else I usually ask them to wait or come back.

Q. Did you happen to see employees at your office? A. Many times.

Q. You listen to them? A. Always.

Q. It was said in this inquiry that an employee complained about the covers of the bowls of the cabinets

Did you receive that complaint before you heard it at the inquiry? A. No.

Q. You heard what they said about it?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you know that letter of Mr. Sam Desrocher, the chief inspector for the provincial government, according to chapter 182 in the Industrial Establishments, which has been filed in this record?
A. Yes.

Q. In the record of this inquiry? A. Yes.

Q. As soon as you have heard this complaint have you done anything to remedy it? A. I have instructed the engineering department to investigate the different types of closets which are made with a view to finding one which was more convenient than the actual type that is being used at the present time, with the intention that as we are able to we will change the type from the present type to the new type.

Q. This will be done in the course of time which is not far away? A. As convenient.

Q. You heard Miss Paris, if I remember well, who used to work in the Weaver room, mention that she was scandalized; she did not say how many times but she was scandalized at least one time by seeing a man undress in the weaving room while she was there, and she is a tall lady and she might have seen over the looms. Did you hear her mention that? A. Yes.

Q. Had your company already begun before this inquiry some steps to provide accommodation to your

employees who wanted to undress or changed their clothes on the premises? A. That condition was already -- we already knew of that condition and steps had been taken last year to provide suitable space for the male employees of the company to change their clothes in, provided on the three top floors. Already steps had been made, or orders had been given to the engineering department to find a proper location for the male employees of the weave rooms with the intention of constructing the necessary changing room or changing space where they could change in private and not in public as they are doing at the present time. That will be built shortly after the first of May, no doubt.

Q. Did ever Miss Paris mention that scandalous fact to you that she saw a man who undressed himself in the weaver room? Did she ever mention it to you? A. Never.

Q. Were you ever warned against that great inconvenience which happened according to Miss Paris in the weaver room? A. No.

Q. Nobody drew your attention to this fact? A. No.

Q. Your attention being drawn by that inquiry you will attend to it? A. My attention was already drawn to it on previous occasions and it had been attended to. Steps were being taken to remedy it before it was mentioned at this inquiry.

Q. My learned friend, Mr. Beauregard, was the champion, during this inquiry of the dining room

accommodation. He came to it repeatedly. Must I understand that two shifts in your mill do not require a dining room because they go on and off and go outside to have their meals. Do you get me or have I said too much in the same question?
A. You say they do not require a dining room. On two shifts there are a number who bring their lunches with them, but they have the time allowable to go out and eat if they wish.

Q. Which shift is this? A. Seven to three and three to eleven.

Q. On the shift from eleven at night to seven in the morning they spend all their time in the mill? A. In the mill.

Q. If they want to eat through the night they have to eat on the spot where they work?
A. While working.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. There is no time allowed for eating then? A. No time off, your lordship; that point was raised at one of the Industrial Committees. It had become a question of whether the men at night desired a half an hour off to eat or whether they would sooner take advantage of the extra half hour's work to earn more, and it was decided they would work straight through.

Q. That is, by the men themselves?
A. By the men themselves.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. They would prefer that?
A. Yes.

Q.

Q. They expressed their opinion at the meeting of the Industrial Committee? A. Yes.

Q. What did you intend to do to try to please the employees and be agreeable to Mr. Beauregard toward that end? A. In each one of the new punch houses being built I have arranged to enlarge them slightly to accommodate a dining room for the employees who are bringing their lunches at the present time in the mill. If they have punched they can go and eat before punching back into the room. The name of the dining room will be a suitable name.

Q. Salle Beauregard. It was also mentioned in this inquiry that there were some girls who were sitting in chairs without backs.

MR. BEAUREGARD: Suitable backs.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Suitable backs; what have you got to say about it? A. In the mill we have in certain locations benches and stools. On two occasions tomy knowledge chairs with backs were tried but the employees did not find them suitable and they themselves preferred to use the stools.

Q. Did you receive any complaints from your employees, except complaints which you heard at the inquiry here, by a few ladies, or of some witness being examined by Mr. Beauregard? A. No.

Q. It was mentioned -- have you any ventilation system in your plant? A. Yes.

Q. Would you explain to the court as briefly as possible what is that ventilation system, how it

works, operated by whom and inspected by whom and when, and make it short? A. The main mill, which was the part in discussion is ventilated by three centrally located carrier humidifying and air conditioning systems. The fresh air is taken in from outside, passes through the humidifier and air conditioning and is blown upstairs by fans on to all floors. The bad air is drawn down the return air ducts, washed and mixed with the fresh air coming in to keep the air at the required temperature and re-circulated, and the hole for the temperature and humidifier is automatically controlled. There is a circulation of air -- the replacemnt -- a complete circulation of the air of the mill every 20 minutes. We have an engineer, a master mechanic in charge and a watchman who inspect the whole system once an hour to keep it in perfect working order and properly regulated, to read the thermometers placed throughout the mill, and also the humidity recording instruments.

Q. What is the height of every storey in your mill? A. The three top floors 14 feet and the weave room is 16 feet.

Q. One man by the name of Matton who had kept on the door or on the wall of the department in which he was working certain figures giving the prices for looms for weavers and we took that piece of paper, your lordship will remember, and we checked it and there were lots of corrections. So, would you file a copy of the exact figures which appear for

piece work rate as per August 26, 1935? A. Yes.

Q. Would you file that as exhibit 113 --

THE COMMISSIONER: 114.

EXHIBIT NO. 114: Weavers piecework rates.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. 114; would you tell the court whether this rate of prices is posted in your mill? A. It is posted in the weave room, I believe, actually on the fixtures -- the cupboard door, in full view of everybody in the mill, of anybody in the department.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is rates on piece work? A. Rates on piece work.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. I have also rates of weaver piece work which I will ask you to file as exhibit 115 and tell me --

THE COMMISSIONER: Pardon me; what is the first one then?

MR. LAJOIE: The first one has the heading the same thing.

THE WITNESS: For the wide looms.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. It is all weaving? A. It is all weaving, but for the wide looms.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. 115 is for the -- A. Narrow looms.

Q. Would you take knowledge of this exhibit and tell the commissioner --

THE COMMISSIONER: It will be exhibit 115.

EXHIBIT #115: Weavers piecework rates, narrow looms.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. What does it refer to? A. It has reference to the piece work, the rates which

are payable per pick, per thousand picks. This schedule is also posted in a conspicuous place in each one of the departments.

Q. Every employee interested may see this notice posted and know what is the rate that you are paying for piece work and he can check what he gets with the rates there? A. Providing he can read and write.

Q. Yes, providing he can read and write.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Do you have many who cannot read and write? A. Plenty, your lordship.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Let us say a few words about that Industrial Committee. You told this afternoon that this committee was formed on the 17th of August, 1935? A. Yes.

Q. Would you tell the court how it was organized, the structure of that commitee, how you proceeded to organize it? A. Instructions were given to the overseers of each department to notify the employees in their department that the employees were to choose from amongst themselves representatives, representing each type of work in the mill on each shift. For instance, doffers on each shift were to be represented by a person each, battery hands and cleaners, the overseers, the weavers, the piecers, spinners, etc. The overseers were warned and especially instructed that they were not in any way to interfere, suggest or try to bias the employees' opinion or control them in their choice, that the

vote was to be absolutely free and unmolested or in any way interfered with by the overseers or the company. The committee consisted of 45.

Q. We have not yet known who were the members of that committee so I would ask you to file as exhibit 116 the complete list of the Industrial Committee of the Wabasso Cotton as formed on the 17th of August, 1936? A. That is it.

EXHIBIT NO. 116: List of members of Industrial Committee.

Q. Would you please tell the court, tell the Commissioner -- excuse me, I am accustomed to saying court -- how many departments are represented in this Industrial Committee? A. 13 departments.

Q. Did you tell us how they are elected, the members of this Industrial Committee. Were they elected in open vote, by ballot, secret vote or otherwise? A. I have no personal knowledge of the exact way in which they were elected, but I believe some departments took a secret ballot, others discussed it amongst themselves and elected who they wished, but I think that on the whole it was done by secret ballot.

Q. We have here in this inquiry one witness by the name of Phillippe Fortin who said that he was the president of the labour union in your mill. Can you look up the list and tell me if his name is on the Industrial Committee? A. Yes, under department of printing works.

Q. Is that name, Phillippe Fortin, the same man

who is mentioned in exhibit 49 as one of the parties of the second part in the proposed contractx of conciliation with your company? A. Yes.

Q. I see; now the same exhibit 49, the second name next to Philippe Fortin of Alphonse Morrissette, employed in the weaving -- A. Weave room.

Q. Would you look up your Industrial Committeex and do you find that Mr. Morrissette is on the Industrial Committee also? A. Yes, under weave room.

Q. I look up again on exhibit 49 of the five people who were proposed to you to form the conciliation committee who were to decide many things, and Mr. Eugene Matton is mentioned as one of the five, as being employed in the card room. Would you look up the Industrial Committee and find out if Mr. Eugene Matton was also a member of the Industrial Committee? A. Yes, under card room.

Q. So three out of the five of that proposed conciliation committee were already in your Industrial Committee. The majority of that conciliation committee were members of your Industrial Committee? A. Yes.

Q. Why was this Industrial Committee formed for? A. At a suggestion that by forming it and allowing the employees to meet the management in private and to tell the management of their trouble and complaint and any suggestions they might have to make, that it might prevent -- it would afford an opportunity to the employees of expressing themselves and might

prevent labour troubles and strikes, etc.

Q. Let us say a few words about the last August strike. Some witnesses during this inquiry mentioned that your company have declared that they were willing to take back married people and people who were helping their family or keeping their family and that you agreed to it and did not take them back.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is not the way I understood it. I understood the agreement was that all those who had been discharged would be taken back, and that later on it was agreed between the parties that preference would be given to the married men and others who had families to keep. Isn't that right? A. Actually my understanding was not just that, your lordship.

Q. That is what ~~we~~ were told by the other witnesses; I forget how many there were, 200, or something --

MR. LAJOIE: We have exhibit 47, and Mr. Bastien let me see exhibit 47.

MR. BEAUREGARD: I am told there was about 135 that had not been reinstalled, but part of them have been reinstalled later on. At that time 135 had not been reinstalled but later on part of this 135 have been reinstalled.

THE COMMISSIONER: What was the agreement? Was it as Mr. Lajoie now says or was it as I understood it that they were all to be taken back but the preference was to be given to those who were married men and had families.

MR. BEAUREGARD: I had understood, my lord,

that everybody was to be reinstated but pending the reinstatement of the employees the employees had themselves come into communication with Mr. Whitehead and had accepted, or had agreed that the preference among those to be reinstated would be given to married men, but after the married men everyone would be reinstated.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is what I understood.

MR. LAJOIE: I have a copy here on which I put during the examination of Mr. Bastien, it was put on it, married men and family supporters. Then, after this discussion about taking back some of your employees did you exchange lists of employees with some representative of your employees or some of your employees who were interested that those who had been dismissed should come back to work?

A. About the end of October we had a meeting that I was asked to attend, a meeting at the Mayor's office, where this question was again discussed. The final decision was that the union officials present to the company a list of those names of the men who should be taken back. This list was presented to Mr. Haggar by Mr. Lebris I think the following day. Later on in the month of January a further list -- or after a meeting which took place or at a meeting which took place at the Mayor's office a further list was presented of those employees that remained. This list was taken back and the engagement of that list was completed with the exception of six whose names

were referred back to the Mayor as being undesirable employees, and we were given to understand by the Mayor that the union admitted or accepted the six or seven names as being undesirable, and that the arrangement had been agreed to as completed.

Q. That is your statement on the question?
A. Yes.

Q. Only six did not return and it was agreed that they were not -- by both sides it was agreed that it was better that they did not come back to work, those six? A. The Mayor stated that to us.

Q. Was there a list of other men that were to go to work but did not return to work because they were either working elsewhere, sent for but unfound, or had left the place? A. I believe those names were included in that particular list you have in your hand.

Q. I show you a list of several people -- I show you a list of nine names of people who were to return to work, but they did not return to work for the reasons mentioned at the end of their names; is that exact? A. Yes.

Q. What are those reasons in general?
A. This man not working is working elsewhere and does not want to come back; sent for but unknown at this address; re-examined and found medically unfit; sent for but unknown at this address; this man was offered a better job than he was doing at the time of last employment but would not take it and quit his job;

this man we were told he was in the country on

doctor's orders, this information given by his mother; this man was re-examined, found medically unfit, was o.k. last time was employed but fainted twice on his way from the first aid office to the office; re-examined and found medically unfit, was o.k. at last time of employment; the last man came to work on the night of September 26th along with another man named Lamprom and they worked for half an hour and told their foreman they did not want to work any longer and asked for their pay. They were told to come back in the morning for it and at seven o'clock they met Mr. Hagger and said they had quit the night before and wanted their pay immediately.

Q. So you claim you have done your best to take back the men that you were to take back after the strike of August, 1935? A. According to my understanding of the arrangement made.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is that admitted now?

MR. [illegible]: We will be obliged and I think that we shall offer a contradictory proof.

THE WITNESS: Before bringing up your contradictory proof, my understanding of the contract made--

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. It was not put in writing? A. You have a copy of the actual notes that were before my desk, I believe, on my desk at the time, Mr. Lajoie?

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Do you refer to these lists? A. You have another note of mine.

(Page 1460 follows)

Q. Oh, yes? A. On the actual contract or the actual terms, which were on my desk at the time of the meeting with Mr. Bastien, Mr. Robicheaud, the Chief of Police, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Lacroix, and Mr. Labrie. A note was made at that time that the married men and the men supporting their families would be returned at once to the plant, although it might take a few weeks to do it. The question came up with regard to the rest of the men who were not supporting families or married, and I refused absolutely to replace the girls by these men. But I did state that they would most likely be all taken back with a general turn-over of labour within a fairly short period. That was the only engagement that I made to take back any others than the married men and the family supporters, and we have been gradually working on that particular lot of men.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. That is the married men? A. No, the unmarried.

Q. But you have got all the married men looked after? A. According to the list as supplied by the Union themselves.

MR. LAJOIE: Mr. McRuer, if I remember, asked you to file a copy of the resolution of Council for the City of Three Rivers, passed on the 11th of January 1932, granting your company commutation of taxes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Before you leave this subject about employees who had been let out, what is the difference between you now, I want to find that out;

how many men were dismissed on that occasion and have not been taken back ? A. I do not know offhand.

Q. Would it be 10 or 20? A. It must be up in the hundreds.

Q. That you refused to take back? A. Yes, they were replaced by girls.

Q. And you refused to make a change? A. I refused to take all the unmarried men back, or even start to replace the girls, because we had taken on girls for the purpose of replacing men .

Q. And you say how many? ,A. About 100.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Were they placed according to the change of shifts? A. Yes.

Q. Because the new law came into force, authorizating your Company to take girls in two shifts; before, you could not employ girls on more than one shift? A. Yes.

Q. Would you explain to the Commissioner all about the shifts, before the new law, and if girls were working on a shift, and how you came to dismiss men and take on girls. Was it because you wanted them to work on two shifts; you might explain that.

A. When the original eight-hour limitation of work Act, I believe it was called, was passed in Ottawa, we were not to work female labour past the hour of six o'clock at night. In order to keep the operation of the mill on a 24-hour basis, it was necessary for

us to institute one shift of girls between eight and four, and two shifts of men between four and twelve, and twelve and eight. Shortly after that change was made, I believe early in April, an article appeared in the Montreal Gazette, which stated that a Bill was being put through the House at Quebec, in which employers, or in which industry was authorized to engage girls on the two-shift system. I immediately communited with the Manufacturers Association asking them if they knew anything of that particular Bill. They telephoned me back and said that they understood it was a bill being presented by the Government, or in the Government - I forget what the wording was - in ordered to facilitate the operation in the light industries. I then communicated with the Chief Inspector, by phone, asking him what he knew about it, and he replied that up to that time there was no absolute decision taken. In May I again wrote him and asked him whether the necessary authority had been granted to change. It was not until the latter part of July, or the first week of August - I forget the exact date - that the authority came through and we obtained the permit to change from the one-shift system of girls to two-shifts of girls and one shift of men. The actual inquiry for that authority started in April of that year, although the change was not made until August.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Just about the time of this strike? A. Previous to it; it was the cause

of the strike.

Q. Then you added a second shift of women, which meant getting rid of so many men? A. It meant getting rid of one complete shift of men.

Q. Was the shift of women only women? A. No, they are about half and half, I should imagine.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. So when you dismissed these men to take on women you did it according to the authority of the law which permitted you to employ women on a second shift, until 11 at night? A. Yes. If that authority had been originally given when the eight-hour day was enacted by Ottawa, the men would never have been employed.

Q. Mr.McRuer has filed as an exhibit - I do not remember the number - a copy of the resolution by the City Council of the City of Three Rivers, dated 11th of January, 1932, showing that the Wabasso Cotton Company had been granted a commutation of taxes for ten years starting from the 1st of January, 1932, to the 1st of January, 1942, fixing your valuation for immovable taxes at $2,000,000, and exempting your Company of the business tax. Do you remember having seen that resolution? A. Yes.

Q. And is your Company exempt from school tax in this City? A. No, we pay on our full valuation on the rolls of the City.

Q. Is your Company paying special taxes in this City? A. All Special taxes.

Q. The special taxes in the City, as per your tax account which I hold in my hand, consists of drainage, pavement, the street under control, and public protection? A. Yes.

Q. And school taxes? A. Yes.

Q. Which amount to 1.74 per $100 special taxes. For the Court's information, the immovable tax in this City is 1.50 per $100.

The school tax is .95 per $100; and the special tax amounts to 1.74 and a fraction per $100. Have you prepared a statement showing what you are paying to the Corporation of the City of Three Rivers, because lots of people think that your Company is exempted from taxes on property that your company holds in the City of Three Rivers? A. Yes.

Q. I see that for Municipal and School taxes you pay $94,817.29? A. That is correct.

Q. That is correct? A. Yes.

Q. And the water tax, there is a fixed charge of $500? A. Yes.

Q. Apart from that you pay so much per thousand gallons of water that you take from the system of the Corporation of the City of Three Rivers for your purposes? A. Yes.

Q. And you have residential property in this town too? A. Yes.

Q. On which you pay taxes? A. Yes.

Q. Do you pay taxes outside of the City of Three

Rivers in the Province of Quebec? A. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: That is, to other municipalities?

MR. LAJOIE: No, not other municipalities.

THE COMMISSIONER: In the Province?

MR. LAJOIE: Provincial taxes imposed for one reason or another by the Provincial Government, my lord.

Q. How much do you pay to the Government of the Province of Quebec for taxes or permits? A. $6,617.86.

Q. And do you pay taxes in Ontario too? A. Yes.

Q. How much? A. $259,34.

THE COMMISSIONER: For licenses?

THE WITNESS: No, Corporation taxes.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Do you pay taxes in New Brunswick, too? A. Yes, $190.65.

Q. And the Province of Alberta?

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. What property have you in the Province of New Brunswick? A. We have warehouses.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. And in Alberta, what do you pay? A. $220.

MR. LAJOIE: I would like to file this statement, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: What is it, Mr. Lajoie?

MR. LAJOIE: Statement showing the amount of taxes paid by the Wabasso Cotton Company, in 1935.

THE COMMISSIONER: That would be 117.

EXHIBIT 117: Statement showing amount of taxes paid by Wabasso Company in 1935.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. From the various reports of your Company, which were shown to you by Mr.Scheuer, it appears that in 1934 and 1935 your company had a surplus? A. Yes.

Q. Did you share that surplus with your employees? A. Yes. In 1934, all employees at the time who were earning 9 cents an hour were raised to 11; all those that were earning 12½ cents an hour were raised to 15; and those earning 15 cents an hour were raised to 17; in 1935, when the new Minimum Wage Act came into force --

Q. On the 1st of August, 1935, according to the law? A. Before that law came into effect, although we knew it was coming, all rates were raised to the level of the new minimum wage law. At the same time, all rates between 20 and 30 were also raised approximately 2 cents to 5 cents an hour.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Did that include men as well as women? A. Yes, my lord, it included men as well as women. Unfortunately at the same time that those increases in pay came into effect, with the changes and turmoil of strikes and labour troubles, the employees had never fully realised this increase in rates, as the efficiency due to inefficient operations has been lower than it would ordinarily have been if the disturbances and changes had not occurred. At the present time the efficiency is coming up to the calculated level of the wage rates.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: I would draw the attention of the Court that Order No. 5, at page 248, is an order that came into force on the 1st of August, 1935, and this is what paragraph 90 says:

> "This order shall come into force and be effected on August 1st, 1935, and is replacing orders 5 and 6 which were in force and effective since September 1st, 1928, which said orders shall thereupon be rescinded."

I quote that because Mr. Whitehead would like us to understand that this law on minimum wages for women would have come into force in 1935 on the 1st of August.

THE WITNESS: That is all it did.

MR. BEAUREGARD: Well, it says the order shall be enforced on the 1st of August, 1935, replacing orders 5 and 6 which had been in force since 1925. I would take it, therefore, that the law was already in force.

THE WITNESS: 9 cents was the minimum wage.

MR. LAJOIE: The wage rates were much lower, my lord. If Your Lordship would like to have a copy of the order which was in force, previous to the order No. 5 which came into force on the 1st of August, 1935, we can produce it for you. However, I think Mr. Whitehead knows enough about the rates to tell the Court what they were.

MR. BEAUREGARD: We can file the previous orders which were rescinded; I see that the law was amended,

at page 247.

THE WITNESS: The law, before August, 1935, called for, I think it was, 9 cents minimum wage.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. Gives what you remember of the scale under that law? A. I think it was 9 cents, 15 cents and 18¾ cents. The change made it 12½, 17 and 21.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Well, doyou mean to say that these increases you have told me of always exceeded the minimum required by the law? A. In 1934 the increases were given after a profit had been made; the increases were given to the lower rates, below 20 cents, raising them on an average from 2 to 3 cents. This increase was not called for by law at all. In 1935 the minimum wage law was changed, and it automatically called for an increase in the lower rates.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. If you will excuse me, I was referring to the change in the law, at page 247; previous to the month of August the employees were divided into different categories, - those who had less than six months'experience; those who had 12 months'experience, and so on. A. Yes, that is right.

Q. But that has been changed, the percentages have been changed, so that therates of pay now are 12½, 17, and 21; all this has been changed to a percentage of 10, 25 and 65? A. The rates

previously were 9, 15, and 18½.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. While I am on the subject, are there any of your employees in your mill, say doffers, earning less than 12½ cents an hour? A. There is not one employee in the employ of the company earning less than 12½ cents.

Q. Nobody? A. Nobody.

MR. LAJOIE: I would like to bring this to the attention of your lordship. In the issue of the Montreal Gazette, of Monday, March 30th, 1936, the following appears:

"The new Provincial Minimum Wage Law of last year had altered this condition somewhat, and now only doffers and battery hands, youths from 14 to 16, were being paid less than 12½ cents an hour."

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. You have no people working for you who earn less than 12½ cents per hour? A. No.

Q. Even if they are doffers or battery hands? A. No.

MR. McRUER: We have a statement here, my lord, of the pay roll for the last two weeks of February, 1935.

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, before the new law came in.

MR. McRUER: The last two weeks of February, 1935.

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, last year.

MR. McRUER: You mean since the new law came in?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, that is what the exhibit says.

THE COMMISSIONER: The statement you have just

read refers to employees between 14 and 16.

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, my lord.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Have you any employees of that age? A. Yes.

Q. Many? A. No, I think about 30 altogether.

Q. Are they girls or boys? A. They are girls and boys, and when we go into the Kiers for boiling cloth it is necessary that only small lads get in there; we have to take them in for that work on account of their size; the same with doffers.

BY MR. LAJOIE: Q. You have already explained to Mr. Baribeau the case of young Savoie who wanted to get married, and who did get married and who got his surprise after his marriage? A. We tried to explain it.

CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. McRUER:

Q. You, apparently, I think, are leaving something of an impression that there was a general raise in your wages in 1934 and 1935? A. I am trying to.

Q. And also, I think, intimating that you were sharing the profits of this Company with the employees? A. I am trying to.

Q. I see. Well, in the statement that we have filed, Exhibit 83, we deal with weavers, for instance; their actual earnings, in 1934, - well, there are different looms, the Draper automatic machines, their actual earnings were, in February, 1934, 28.27 cents

per hour; in February, 1935, 26.49 cents per hour. A. This did not occur until July, 1935.

Q. July of 1935? A. After the end of the fiscal year.

Q. Yes, and at the same time a stepping up of duties? A. No.

Q. To be performed? A. No.

Q. I see. A. That is actually what we did at that time, Mr. McRuer. Those rates were changed at those two periods.

Q. What reates, just the lower? A. In 1934 all rates below twenty, and in 1935, the different rates between twenty and thirty were voluntarily changed by the Company.

Q. Well, that would be, I suppose, very shortly after you were given somewhat of the floor rolling by the Price Spreads Commission? A. Oh, that had nothing to do with it, Mr. McRuer.

Q. Well, as a matter of fact, the question of your wages was gone into in rather great detail? A. I am glad you brought that question up.

Q. By the Price Spreads Commission? A. Because I hope that when you are taking out the Company's average wages you do not allow the same discrepancy to creep into your report as they did. They took out our average wage on a 24-hour basis and compared it with other mills whose average wage they took out on a ten-hour basis. By so doing it meant that our average wage rate showed up considerably

lower than that of the other mills.

Q. Just a moment before you go on. You pay a higher rate for night work? A. Yes, we pay a higher rate for night work.

Q. Well, why would the average per hour on a 24-hour basis be lower than the average per hour on a ten-hour basis? A. I will explain.

Q. All right? A. Because on the 10-hour basis you have two or three higher classifications of labour working, such as finishing, dying, printing, mechanics, and all those men who are earning, as a rule, over 30 cents an hour, whereas on the 24-hour basis your lower salaries of doffers, battery hands, and other classifications which come between 12 and 17 come in there, that is, on a 10-hour basis, so that it would naturally bring your average wage considerably lower; and if that same wage was calculated on the 10-hour basis the same as the other mills were calculated on, that would be the result.

Q. Just there then. A mill that would be fortunate enough to be running 24 hours a day should be able to pay higher wages than a mill that is running only 10 hours a day? A. I actually believe we are.

Q. You think you are paying higher than the others? A. I really believe we are really paying a higher wage rate than the others, in the industry. Although I have no actual proof of it except in

conversation.

Q. We are going into them all anyway, and we will find out. But just how long was it after your wage rates were discussed before the Price Spreads Commission that you made these increases in the lower scales that you mentioned? A. We made those increases, - when did the Commission's report come before Parliament?

Q. They made their report, I think, in March, 1935. A. It was in 1934 that the actual report came out on the Textile Inquiry.

Q. Oh no, the report came out in April of 1935. A. Anyway, this was put through in July; it was done in July, at th e end of the fiscal year when the balance sheets had been brought out.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Well, you raised the wages from that time on? A. Yes.

Q. You did not pay any back bonuses? A. No, my lord.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. I heard you say, that the Wabasso Cotton Company has benefitted by the commutation of taxes, in 1932, for ten years up to 1942. I understand that is a waiver by the City of 75 per cent. of your immovable taxes.

MR. LAJOIE: The valuation roll is $3,600,000.

MR. BEAUREGARD: And what does the commutation consist of?

MR. LAJOIE: $2,600,000. There is a certified copy of the valuation roll here.

MR. BEAUREGARD: I see that you have with you a copy of the valuation roll of the City of Three Rivers?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Are you going to file it?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 118.

EXHIBIT 118: Valuation roll of the City of Three Rivers.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. From this roll it would appear that the Wabasso Cotton Company are exempted to an amount of $1,826,300? A. Yes.

MR. LAJOIE: 1.30 immovable taxes.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. And the rate is 1.30 per each $100? A. Yes.

Q. Before this commutation of taxes, your company had already benefitted from a general exemption of taxes by the City of Three Rivers? A. Yes.

Q. You paid no immovable taxes at all before that? A. Yes.

Q. I speak of immovable taxes? A. Yes.

Q. What was the regime before? A. There were certain exemptions that were given, but which had expired.

MR. BEAUREGARD: I have here a copy of the By-law of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec which I would like to file, my lord.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Will you file, as Exhibit 119, documentary evidence of your status, of your relation-

ship with the City of Three Rivers.

MR. LAJOIE: I think I had better make a statement in that connection.

On the 15th of April, 1907, the Corporation of the City of Three Rivers passed a by-law, No. 155, granting to Mr. Charles R. Whitehead, Leslie C.Craig, and James N. Greenshields, or their representatives, a bonus of $75,000, and has fixed at the sume of $1500 per year, for ten years starting from the 1st of January, 1909, the amount of taxes on the manufacture to be built.

MR. MCRUER: Fixing it at $1500 per year?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes. As Mr. Whitehead said in his evidence, that bonus was divided into two parts. He got, first, $25,000 bonus for a mill of a value of at least $1,000,000, and the balance of the bonus was to be given if they built another addition of similar value.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, what is the purpose of going into all this?

MR. LAJOIE: Yes, my lord, I am wondering; it is a long story.

THE COMMISSIONER: I do not see the necessity of it.

PAR MTRE LAJOIE: Une minute, voici on va me demander de faire venir tous les bills passes a Quebec. Je vais faire un statement, si on veut me le permettre, je crois que je suis l'homme le plus renseigne pour ca.

MTRE BEAUREGARD: Faites un statement.

PAR M. le COMMISSAIRE: Vous pourriez preparer un etat sur une feuille....

PAR MTRE BEAUREGARD: Mon savant ami pourrait faire une declaration assez breve.

PAR M. le COMMISSAIRE: Montrant les commutations dont la compagnie a joui depuis le commencement.

PAR Me. BEAUREGARD: C'est ca.

MTRE LAJOIE: Ca depend de ce que vous voulez.

PAR M. le COMMISSAIRE: C'est vous qui avez toute la preuve en mains.

PAR Me. BEAUREGARD: Un etat qui demontrerait les avantages recus par la compagnie de la ville des Trois Rivieres.

MR. McRUER: Will you give us a memo, and we will file it later on.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then that will not be filed for the present.

BY MR. BEAUREGARD: Q. Now, Mr. Whitehead, I understand that outside of this the Legislature has reduced the payment of your water rate to $500 per year. What amount were you paying before? A. That was increased. We were only paying $100 a year before that, and no amount for water through the meters.

Q. Do you mean to say that through this by-law you are paying a larger amount than you were paying before? A. Yes.

Q. What is the object of the bill, it must not be that? A. Oh, excuse me. The original arrangement

expired, and for a period of one year we worked on the regular rates, and the new arrangement was made afterwards.

Q. Can you tell me whether or not there are some agreements of a similar nature concerning the St. Maurice Cotton Company? A. No.

Q. The St. Maurice is located at Shawinigan Falls? A. No, Three Rivers.

Q. So that immovable taxes belonging to the St. Maurice are included in the Wabasso? A. Yes.

Q. And all its physical assets are known as Wabasso's assets? A. Yes.

MR. McRUER: I am told, that the exemption provides that it shall apply to no increases in the Wabasso Mill, and when the St. Maurice assets are brought into the Wabasso Company you do not pay any taxes on them? A. We are already paying taxes on the St. Maurice end of it now.

Q. Oh, you are paying taxes? A. Yes.

BY THE COMMISSIONER: Q. You mean independent? A. No, they're already included in the Wabasso. We actually pay on the St. Maurice at the present time.

Q. When the city valuates your property they include in that valuation the St. Maurice property? A. Everything inside the fence, my lord.

BY MR. McRUER: Q. So that this valuation we have covers the St. Maurice plant and everything? A. Yes.

Q. And the result is that that is fixed at $2,000,000? A. Yes.

Q. So that you can increase it as much as you like? A. No.

MR. LAJOIE: I would like to make a statement in that connection. I prepared that resolution, and I have here a certified copy. The original intention was, that this commutation of taxes would cover all buildings, machinery, and accessories owned or possessed by the Wabasso Company at that time, or that it may possess in the future, during the course of the ten years of the commutation of taxes, but that resolution was adopted after drawing the part covering the exemption of buildings and machinery that the company may acquire in the future.

MR. LANCTOT: Your lordship, now that things have taken a definite turn, is it possible to let us know what day you are going to sit in Montreal, so that we can notify them there. They expect an answer from Mr. [illegible] and myself as to the date on which you will sit in Montreal.

THE COMMISSIONER: Do you think we can finish here tomorrow forenoon by sitting until one o'clock?

MR. BEAUREGARD: I think so, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: You say witnesses will be here from Cap Madelaine.

MR. BEAUREGARD: We should be able to get through, my lord, in an hour or an hour and a half. I will be very very short with Mr. Whitehead in the morning, only a few questions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Have you anything further, Mr. McRuer?

MR. McRUER: No, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: Then by sitting from 10 until 1 we ought to finish. Do you think by 1 o'clock we ought to be through?

MR. BEAUREGARD: I think so, my lord.

THE COMMISSIONER: In that case we will take the half past three train back to Montreal, if we get through in reasonable time tomorrow, so that I think we can set Friday in Montreal, unless something unforeseen happens.

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Par Me. [illegible]: Qu'il plaise à M. le Commissaire, je comprends qu'il est cinq heures.

M. le COMMISSAIRE: Le témoignage est-il fini?

Maître [illegible]: Je veux attirer l'attention de la Commission, sur un fait. Pendant que nous discutons ici il se passe des événements qui nous intéressent et qui intéressent la Commission. C'est que la Consolidated Silk Mills à St-Hyacinthe a fermé ses portes le 27 de mars. Ce que j'en sais, je le sais par une dépêche parue sur un journal de Montréal, qui rapporterait une déclaration du gérant Monsieur Maurice Bernstein, qui dit: "

" Déclaration du gérant, M. Maurice Bernstein.

Saint Hyacinthe 27. Après une tentative de grève d'un certain nombre d'employés dans le département des fileurs, la Consolidated Silk Mills Limited, en cette ville, a fermé ses portes ce matin pour une période indéfinie. Quelque trois cents ouvriers, hommes et femmes, sont affectés.

Les difficultés commencèrent jeudi après midi, alors que les fileurs négligèrent, sans avis préalable de se rendre à leur travail.

L'arrêt dans un département paralysa nécessairement les autres, les autorités décidèrent ce matin d'interrompre toutes activités.

D'après M. Maurice Bernstein, gérant de la Consolidated, la manufacture peut rester fermée pendant un temps indéfini. Les directeurs du bureau de Montréal sont attendus ici et délibéreront avec les autorités locales les mesures à prendre. M. Bernstein nous expliquait le matin que, depuis six mois, les ouvriers furent employés malgré qu'on eût pour eux très peu d'ouvrage. De leur bonne cependant

de l'ouvrage et les moyens de traverser la période d'hiver.

A cause des conditions difficiles dans l'industrie, causées surtout par la concurrence des usines japonaises, on commença la fabrication de marchandises d'un nouveau genre pour lesquelles les ouvriers reçurent un salaire moindre. Mécontents de leurs salaires réduits, les filleurs se mirent en grève jeudi après midi, sans avoir formulé de griefs auprès des chefs. Puis, depuis ils réclament aujourd'hui des gages plus considérables. Leur geste a eu pour effet la fermeture complète de la manufacture.

Me. [illegible]: Je dois dire que je suis en possession d'une coupure de article, où il apparaîtrait que cette affaire-ci est réglée, alors l'insistance que je mettais à ce que nous nous occupions de cette affaire-ci est tempérée par le règlement que rapporte La Presse d'hier, mais nous tenons cette information, tout comme la première information comme non suffisante pour la commission. Je me demande si les messieurs avocats, qui semblent ici représenter plusieurs compagnies, ne pourraient pas nous mettre un peu plus au point sur cette industrie.

Par M. le COMMISSAIRE: Qu'est-ce que La Presse dit:

Par Maître BOURASSA: " St.Hyacinthe 30.

Le syndicalisme catholique vient de remporter un beau succès à St-Hyacinthe, au cours de la grève de la Consolidated Silk Mills Limited, qui s'est déclarée jeudi dernier, 20 mars. Comme résultat, les ouvriers sont tous retournés ce matin à l'ouvrage. Il leur est accordé une augmentation de salaire de 10 à 20%, selon la nature du travail, et les patrons

leur accordant une amnistie complète.

De son côté le gérant de l'établissement, M. Maurice Bernstein, s'est dit entièrement satisfait de la façon dont la grève s'est réglée. On a aussi admis le principe de l'atelier fermé dans les départements des tisserands et des metteurs en bobine. Quelque 300 personnes, hommes et femmes, étaient affectées par la grève. Dès vendredi dernier, dans la matinée, les grévistes allèrent demander aux syndicats catholiques nationaux de les organiser, et un syndicat du textile fut fondé. Ceux qui se chargèrent spécialement de son organisation furent M. l'Abbé [illegible] Martel, aumônier des syndicats; MM. Odilon Chabot, président du Comité de la propagande et Alphonse Roberge président du syndicat de la confection. Au cours de l'assemblée, les ouvriers ont acclamé à plusieurs reprises le nom de leur patron, M. Bernstein et tout le monde se félicite de la solution apportée au différend. "

Me. [illegible]: Je ne sais pas si nous avons ici quelqu'un qui puisse infirmer ou confirmer cette déclaration, qui est tout à fait réconfortante.

Mtre. [illegible]:

Je suis autorisé à faire une déclaration. La première nouvelle qui a paru concernant le 27 mars. Cette première première nouvelle, concernant la Consolidated Silk Mills n'était pas exacte. Comme question de fait ce qui s'était passé, c'est qu'il n'y avait pas eu de changement de salaire dans le tissage depuis au moins six mois avant le 26 mars, et comme question de fait le 26 mars 1936, 36 sur 45 tisserands de l'équipe du jour, à l'heure du dîner

ne sont pas revenus à l'ouvrage, parce que prétendaient-ils, les taux sur deux ou trois styles de tissus anglais ne les payaient pas suffisamment. Or, l'équipe du soir de 45 tisserands, par sympathie le lundi soir, ne sont pas revenus à l'ouvrage. Aucun autre département n'avait aucune plainte, excepté ce que nous venons de dire. Alors le vendredi les employeurs se sont réunis avec les employés et il a été fait un règlement. Comme question de fait, le 27 mars, samedi il y a eu une augmentation de salaires sur les tissus en question, deux et trois tissus. En aucun temps les employeurs n'ont dit ce que on n'ont donné d'entrevue pour ce qui concerne la partie que je lirai, ils sont au contraire fâchés personnellement de cette partie de la nouvelle qui annonçait la fermeture du plant. Cette partie-ci particulièrement:

"A cause des conditions difficiles dans l'industrie, amenées surtout par la concurrence des soies japonaises, on commença la fabrication de [illegible] d'un nouveau genre pour lesquelles les ouvriers reçurent un salaire moindre. Mécontents de leurs salaires réduits, les tisserands se mirent en grève juste après cela, mais sont ensuite retournés [illegible] après des mois. Et depuis, ils réclament aujourd'hui des gages plus considérables. Leur geste a eu pour effet la fermeture complète de la manufacture."".

Il y a dans cette partie où on parle "de concurrence japonaise" les employeurs n'ont pas parlé ni donné d'entrevue dans les journaux à cet effet. Je tiens à faire une déclaration officielle qu'ils

ne sont pas responsables de l'allusion faite à la concurrence japonaise. L'on travaille et tout marche régulièrement.

Par M.le COMMISSAIRE: Il n'y a rien à s'inquiéter sur cette fermeture.

Par M. BEAUREGARD: Je comprends, vu la déclaration de Mtre Lanctot que nous pouvons continuer notre cours ici.

Par Mtre. Lajoie: Dois-je comprendre, je ne suis pas au courant. Nous avons entendu des témoins pendant six jours, des témoins représentant l'Union, qui se sont déroulés dans la suite aux témoins. J'ai fait entendre M.Whitehead, tout à l'heure. Il me semble qu'il serait juste raisonnable qu'un quart d'heure nous soit accordé, à chaque coté pour résumer les témoignages sous forme de plaidoyer ou autrement. Je m'engage à ne pas parler plus de un quart d'heure. C'est possible que je n'aie pas la montre à la main, mais ça ne prendra pas beaucoup de temps.

Par Me. BEAUREGARD: Je peux bien prendre une heure.

Par M.le COMMISSAIRE: Comme vous dites, six jours de preuve, et faire un résumé dans un quart d'heure.

Par Mtre LAJOIE: Ce ne sera pas de la soie rayée mais de la phrase.

-- The Commission adjourned at 5.20 P.M. Tuesday, 31st March, 1936, to resume on Wednesday, 1st April, 1936, at 10 A.M.
